Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-135
Friday
14 July 1995

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-95-135 *14 July 1995*

CONTENTS

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Islamic Affairs

OIC Chief Urges Air Strikes on Bosnian Serbs *[SPA]* 1
Shiite Leader: Zionism Makes Peace Impossible *[London AL-HAYAH 10 Jul]* 1
Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 2
27 Jun 2
4 Jul 4
7 Jul 5
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 6
27 Jun 6
4 Jul 7

Palestinian Affairs

PLO: Talks To Be Held in Zikhron Ya'aqov 15 Jul *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9
Sha'th: Talks To Focus on Security Arrangements *[Jericho VOP]* 9
On Meetings With 'Arafat, Talks' Venue *[Jerusalem International]* 10
Details Plans for Gaza Development *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Jul]* 10
'Arafat Chairs Negotiations Committee Meeting *[Jericho VOP]* 11
'Arafat Receives Call From Yemeni President *[Jericho VOP]* 11
Arab League's 'Abd-al-Majid Hit for Sudan 'Bias' *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 11 Jul]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Reportage on Imam's Killing, Government-FIS Ties 13
FIS Sources on Killing, Dialogue End *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Jul]* 13
French Intelligence 'Used' Slain Imam *[London AL-HAYAH 13 Jul]* 14
Opposition Newsletter Views Murder *[Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT 11 Jul]* 14
Authorities Still Open To Dialogue *[Paris Radio]* 16
Spokesman on Presidential Statement 16
Former Goverment Spokesperson on Political Issues *[Algiers Radio]* 17
Sifi Receives Chadian President's Envoy *[Algiers Radio]* 17
Bank To Issue 1000-Dinar Banknotes *[Algiers Radio]* 17

Egypt

'Current Crisis' With Sudan Continues 17
Editor on 'Difficult' Options *[AL-AHRAM 7 Jul]* 17
Al-Turabi Control Said Key to Tensions *[London AL-HAYAH 13 Jul]* 18
Musa Sends UN Message Over Hala'ib *[MENA]* 19
Musa Comments on Relations With Sudan *[Cairo Radio]* 20
Islamic Group: 'Positive Results' From Mubarak Attack *[AL-SHA'B 7 Jul]* 20
Report on Unity Between 'Terrorists' *[AL-'ARABI 10 Jul]* 21
Minister Views Plan To Develop Hala'ib Area *[MENA]* 23
Angolan Embassy Denies Presence of 'Terrorist' Camps *[MENA]* 23
Musa Doubts European Ability To Settle Conflicts *[Vienna TV]* 24
PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Leaves After 3-Day Visit *[MENA]* 24
Labor Federation Thanks Workers' Foreign Employers *[MENA]* 24
Columnist Criticizes Government's Economic Policy *[AL-WAFD 9 Jul]* 25
Nile Basin States Receive $6.5 Million in Aid *[MENA]* 25

Sudan

Al-Bashir: Egypt, U.S. Working To 'Topple Regime' *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Jul]* 26
Al-Bashir Says Hala'ib Region 100% Sudanese *[Omdurman Radio]* 26
2 African States Said To Approve DNG Radio Station *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 10 Jul]* 27
Opposition Figure on 'Fundamentalist' Channel *[MENA]* 27
Government Postpones Italian Doctor's Release *[Omdurman Radio]* 27

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Qatar

U.S., Saudi 'Pressure' Seen Influencing Area Ties *[AFP]* 28
Sudanese Foreign Minister Arrives on 3-Day Visit *[WAKH]* 28

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Receives Sudanese Counterpart *[Riyadh TV]* 28
King Fahd, Qatari Amir Discuss Regional Issues *[Riyadh TV]* 29
Papers Comments on Fall of Srebrenica, West's Role *[SPA]* 29

Yemen

Joint Border Committee With Saudi Arabia Meets *[Sanaa Radio]* 29

IRAQ

Opposition Reports Escape Attempt by U.S. Prisoners *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 30
BABIL on U.S. Influence in Security Council *[INA]* 30
Turkey Urged To Abandon 'Delusion' Over U.S. *[AL-QADISIYAH 3 Jul]* 30
End to Foreign Forces Presence in Turkey Urged *[INA]* 32
Dismissals in Ruling Party Said Linked to 'Resentment' *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 32
Clashes Between Talabani, Barzani Groups Reported 32
PUK Radio Details Battles in Irbil *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 32
PUK Radio Reports More Clashes With KDP *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 33
Barzani Radio on Talabani Losses *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 33
TV Reports Renewed Clashes *[Baghdad TV]* 34
Rival Kurdish Groups Clash in North *[IRNA]* 34
PUK Reportedly Repulses KDP Attack *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 34
TV Reports on Clashes *[Baghdad TV]* 35
Barzani Radio Says 10 Jalalis Killed *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 35

ISRAEL

Syrian Bid To Buy Argentine Nuclear 'Know-How' Seen *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Jul]* 36
Problems Remain on Syria Track After Ross Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Peres Holds News Conference on Peace Talks 37
Decries Ultimatum on PLO Prisoners *[Vienna Radio]* 37
Comments on Lessons in Bosnia *[Vienna DER STANDARD 14 Jul]* 37
Import Duties for Deals With Far East Lowered *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Jul]* 38
Rabin: Efrat Site Expansion To Be Approved *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Segev: Energy Network in W. Bank Must Be Kept *[THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Jul]* 38
New Jewish Organization To Guard Roads *[HATZOFE 11 Jul]* 39
Attorney General Not To Charge Rabbis on Decree *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Reaction To Halakic Ruling on Evacuation Noted 39
Poll: Majority Opposes *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 13 Jul]* 39
Storm Expected To 'Subside' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 13 Jul]* 40
Government, 'Uprising' Criticized *[HATZOFE 12 Jul]* 40
'State of Judaea' Called For *[Judean Voice]* 41
Baraq Denies YEDI'OT Charges on Ze'elim *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
New Armored Corps Commander Appointed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Jul]* 42
Convicted Officer Appointed Hebron Governor *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Court, Municipality Decrees Against Orient House *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Analysts: Signs Hamas Seeks Election Role *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 42

JORDAN

King, Yemen's Salih Hold Joint News Conference *[Amman TV]* 43
Al-Kabariti on Peace Process, Arab Relations *[AL-WASAT 10-16 Jul]* 45
Meeting With Kuwait To Restore Relations Revealed *[AL-DUSTUR 13 Jul]* 46
Australian, Swazi Foreign Ministers Arrive *[Amman TV]* 46
Columnist Defends Iraq, Blames U.S. for Embargo *[AL-RA'Y 13 Jul]* 47
'Traditional' Leaders Dominate Municipal Elections *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Jul]* 47
Centrist Bloc Wins All Seats *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Jul]* 48
IAF Wins Only 5 % *[Amman TV]* 49

LEBANON

Hizballah Introduces Structural Changes *[AL-SAFIR 13 Jul]* 50
Al-Hirawi on Syrian Presence, Personal Liberties *[Beirut Radio]* 51

SYRIA

Ross, al-Shar' Discuss U.S. Efforts on Security *[SANA]* 53
Al-Shar' Comments on Talks *[London TV]* 53
Ross, Delegation Depart *[SANA]* 53
Papers Discuss Ross' Tour *[Damascus Radio]* 53
Commentary Rejects Israeli Presence on Golan *[Damascus Radio]* 54
Yemen's Salih Meets With al-Asad, Departs *[Damascus Radio]* 55

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

President Rabbani Meets Pakistani Ambassador *[Kabul Radio]* 57
Clerics Welcome Message From Iran's Khamene'i *[IRNA]* 57
Foreign Elements Said Fermenting 'Conspiracy' *[IRNA]* 57

India

Minister Views Kashmir Development, Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Official: Elections To Be Held Jan 96 *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Commentary Welcomes Kashmir Human Rights Report *[Delhi International]* 58
Kashmiri Leader Seeks Iran's Mediation in Region *[IRNA]* 59
Report Addresses Official's Visit to Israel *[THE ASIAN AGE 4 Jul]* 59
Daily Welcomes Strenghtening Ties With Russia *[THE HINDU 10 Jul]* 59

Iran

U.S. Fleet Commander's Comments on Gulf Viewed *[Tehran International]* 60
U.S., Israel Said Subverting Ties With Turkey *[IRNA]* 61
Editorial Views Recent Amnesty International Report *[TEHRAN TIMES 6 Jul]* 61
Inaction Against Serbian Aggression Addressed 62
Jannati: World Silence 'Barbarism' *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Protesters Condemn Western 'Silence' *[IRNA]* 62
Editorial Comments on 'Helpless' West *[IRNA]* 62
Envoy Informs Butrus-Ghali on 'Hostages' in Israel *[IRNA]* 63
France's Total Replaces Conoco in Oil Deal *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Bangladesh Envoy Calls For Broader Economic Ties *[IRNA]* 64
Daily Views Carpet Industry, Marketing Problems *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 7 May]* 64

Pakistan

Minister Discusses Possible U.S. Visit in Sep *[THE NATION 10 Jul]* 66
Official Talks Continue Between Government, MQM 67
Government Presents 21-Point Agenda *[Islamabad Radio]* 67
MQM: No Plan To Divide Sindh *[THE NATION 14 Jul]* 68
Both Sides Agree To Reconvene 16 Jul *[AFP]* 69
Daily Reports Further on Talks *[THE NATION 14 Jul]* 70
Radio Reports 10 Killed, 9 Injured in Karachi *[Islamabad Radio]* 71

Sri Lanka

Security Troops Continue Operation 'Leap Forward' *[Colombo International]* 71
AFP Reports on Downed Plane, 'Raging' Fighting 72

Islamic Affairs

OIC Chief Urges Air Strikes on Bosnian Serbs

LD1207215095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1826 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 12 July, SPA — Dr. Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC], has reiterated that the OIC is very disturbed by the fall of Srebrenica into the hands of the Serb forces. He added that the OIC has warned against the consequences of the increased threats against the enclave of Srebrenica.

In a press statement released today, Algabid urged the United Nations and the major Western powers to take firm and immediate military measures, including the use of NATO air forces, to repulse the Serbian military offensive against the enclave, designated by the United Nations as a safe heaven. It is now clear, however, that the measures taken by NATO have not been at all proportionate to the serious provocation by the Serbs and their flagrant violations of the UN resolutions, he reiterated.

Furthermore, the OIC secretary general reiterated that his organization considers the illegal arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina an unjustified act of discrimination and called upon the international community, the major powers, and OIC member-states to furnish the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina with the necessary aid to allow it to exercise its natural and inalienable right to self- defense, as well as collective defense in accordance with Chapter 51 of the UN Charter.

He warned the international community against further efforts by the Serbs to impose a military settlement and reiterated the total commitment of the CIC to the defense of the legitimate struggle of the Bonsian people using all available means.

Algabid pointed out, moreover, that the repeated violations of the UN resolutions [by the Serbs] and their flagrant military activities against the UN-designated safe haven areas, as well as taking UN personnel as hostages, are not merely unprecedented threats to world peace and security but also serious examples for the collapse of the established world order which is based on the rule of law and ethics.

He urged, however, that the Security Council allow the use of firm, urgent, and punishing measures, including the use of NATO air force strikes against Bosnian Serb targets — including their command and observation positions — in order to secure an immediate withdrawal of Serbian forces from Srebrenica.

The OIC secretary general urged the major Western powers to deliver a clear warning to the Serbian forces that they will use force if other safe haven areas are attacked, including Zepa and Gorazde.

He also expressed his ever-increasing concern over the plight of the Bosnian refugees fleeing Serb atrocities in Srebrenica, and called upon the United Nations to take the necessary steps to secure the safety of civilians there.

Finally, the statement pointed out that the OIC secretary general had been making urgent contacts with all parties concerned, including OIC member states, to boost the OIC efforts to defend the legitimate cause of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Shiite Leader: Zionism Makes Peace Impossible

MM1007110395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Jul 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Shams-al-Din: No Peace as Long as Israel Is Committed to Aggressive Zionist Ideology"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut — Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has said that "we are moving toward a truce project, not a peace project. We will not achieve peace as long as Israel is committed to the aggressive Zionist ideology." In a seminar organized by the Cultural Society of the Sons of Bin Jubayl in Sur entitled "The Approaching Peace in the Light of the Present Reading of Changes in the Difficult Stage," he said that "if Israel abandons that ideology, peace between us will be possible."

He stressed that "the Zionist movement does not want peace. The latest thing that confirms this is the rabbinical congress ruling seeking to prohibit the handover of the West Bank to the Palestinians."

He also said: "No power or authority can Judaize an Islamic land. No one has such power. Islamic doctrines prohibit that, and jurisprudence refuses to allow Arab-Islamic lands to be turned into Jewish lands."

He added: "Zionism insisted on considering Jerusalem Torah land and on establishing a racist state — which confirms that a peace process is objectively impossible. And as long as the Israeli entity is guided by the Zionist ideology, Israel is not capable of achieving peace."

He said that "the cohesion element is the pioneer Syrian position of President (Hafiz) al-Asad and his aides. Had it not been for that, the Arabs would have become copies of (Palestinian President) Yasir 'Arafat. Peace could be signed at the end of the year, or it could be delayed for another year. But the nation always has options, and it has the capability to reject the Zionist entity and to refuse to consider Jerusalem a Jewish capital. This rejection is translated into actions, and we are

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not impotent. We are capable of thwarting the Zionist project."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B

27 Jun

NC0507101795

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 27 June edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Brotherhood, Party leader Condemn Attempt on Mubarak
2. Press Freedom During Prophet Muhammad's Time
3. Brotherhood Leader on Crisis of Freedoms
4. Investigation Into Lawyer's Death Urged
5. Group Demands Inquiry Into Detainees' Death
6. Scholar Says West Leading Drive for Prostitution

BROTHERHOOD, PARTY LEADER CONDEMN ATTEMPT ON MUBARAK

A 100-word report on page 1 notes the Muslim Brotherhood's condemnation of the "treacherous attempt" to assassinate President Mubarak. In a statement issued by the group, the Brotherhood expressed its denunciation of the incident, which it described as "an abominable and criminal action." The group congratulated Mubarak and his accompanying delegation on their escape and reiterated its stand on the "unlawfulness of these actions, which lack any support under the shari'ah, law, or authentic customs."

For his part, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn condemned the incident in remarks to the BBC radio. In an approximately 150-word report on his remarks carried on the same page, Husayn is quoted as saying: "We strongly reject this criminal incident and must think now of how to prevent a repetition or escalation of such acts. This is the main issue connected to democratic reforms, so we can ease the tension."

PRESS FREEDOM DURING PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S TIME

A boxed commentary by Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn on page 4, within his main article dealing with the Press Law, discusses freedom of the press during the Prophet Muhammad's time. The approximately 250-word commentary notes that poetry and poets were among the most important "media organs" in past times, including during the lifetime of Prophet Muhammad. Husayn points out that when the Prophet was ruling Medina, some of his "administrative decisions" angered some of the opposition, which aired its opinion through poetry. Giving an example, Husayn explains that following the battle of Hawazin, the Prophet distributed the booty among the "immigrant" Muslims who moved with him from Mecca to Medina, and not the "helpers"—the believers from Medina who had received and assisted the Prophet after his flight from Mecca. This angered the "helpers," who thought Muhammad was biased toward his own people. Several poems were written against this decision. Husayn adds: "What was the blessed Prophet's reaction? Did he place restraints on poets? Did he ban the reading of poems on the grounds of inciting conflicts between the immigrants and the helpers? No. He benefited from this media to learn the feelings of the public." Instead, Husayn adds, the Prophet called for a meeting of the helpers and explained to them the significance of his decision and the need to improve the economic conditions of the immigrants. As a result, he adds, the helpers were convinced and backed the Prophet's decision.

BROTHERHOOD LEADER ON CRISIS OF FREEDOMS

On page 5, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Guide and spokesman Muhammad al-Ma'mun al-Hudaybi writes a 2,000-word article on the "Crisis of Freedoms" in Egypt. He notes that for more than a month, the country has been living in a state of panic triggered by the ill-considered press law which portends the "assassination of the freedom of the press." He says there is small margin left of public and individual freedoms. He notes that the 10,000 people who flocked to the al-Wafd Party headquarters on 18 June in response to the call by the opposition parties and nationalist forces were a "true representation of the will of the Egyptian people of all factions and intellectual and cultural trends." He adds: "A significantly important observation is that some people are motivated by their hatred and their war against the Islamic movement, with the Muslim Brotherhood at its forefront, so that they object to any broadening of the scope freedom for fear of the power of the Islamic current."

Al-Hudaybi criticizes the radio and television, which are financed by the taxpayers, for failing to report on important events related to this issue, such as the journalists' general meeting on 18 June that called for the abrogation of the press law. Noting that finding a suitable solution to this crisis is the responsibility of the "authorities," he adds that referring the journalists' memorandum to the Constitutional Court for an opinion is a "deceptive" measure that is just a stalling tactic, since piles of cases have been sitting at the court for

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years waiting for a ruling. As for the Public Attorney's memorandum giving guarantees to journalists about preventive custody, it confirms that the authorities have absolute powers in this regard. He asks: Is the continued imprisonment of Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, Dr. Ibrahim al- Za'farani, Dr. Husam Husayn, and scores of other colleagues, who have been in detention for approximately six months after being questioned for a few hours, done without the knowledge and the permission of the Public Attorney? He adds: "Should not the men of the press, literature, art, and anyone related to publishing fear the same fate?"

Concluding, al-Hudaybi adds: "Allow me, Mr. President, to address you in the words with which former General Guide 'Umar al- Tilmisani addressed your predecessor the late President Anwar al- Sadat. He said: If we were treated unjustly by someone subordinate to you, we would take our complaint to you. But if you, Mr. President, treat us unjustly, who shall we take our complaint to? God is our best hope."

INVESTIGATION INTO LAWYER'S DEATH URGED

A 400-word report on page 8 states that the Bar Association's General Meeting, held 24 June, condemned Law No. 93 of 1995, which toughens the penalties for publishing crimes. The Association backed the bid to challenge the law at the Higher Constitutional Court. The Bar called for the release of all detained lawyers, in light of the death of Lawyer Mustafa 'Iraqi, who spent approximately three years in detention.

Association Secretary General Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna stressed that the association would take all legal measures to uncover the circumstances surrounding the death of 'Iraqi and request an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

GROUP DEMANDS INQUIRY INTO DETAINEES' DEATH

The Egyptian Human Rights Organization, EHRO, has called on the Public Attorney to set up a commission of inquiry into the death of five detainees at al-Wadi al-Jadid prison. A 600-word report on the page 8 notes that a statement issued by EHRO on 25 June urges the public attorney to form a committee of lawyers to conduct an "impartial" inquiry into the death as well as into detainees' complaints of torture and maltreatment. The group urged the lifting of all restrictions on visits to detainees by their lawyers and relatives.

The report notes that Lawyer Mustafa 'Iraqi was detained on 20 December 1992 and died last week. Although acquitted by a military court on August 1993 in connection with the al-Shawqiyun case, a detention order was issued against him the following day and he remained in custody despite the verdict. EHRO lawyers visited him on 21 August 1994 and found him in good health. There was no news about him after that due to the ban on prison visits. The statement adds: "What doubles our organization's concern in this regard is that the death of Lawyer Mustafa 'Iraqi is the fifth of its kind since the opening of the al-Wadi al-Jadid Prison in February 1995, when approximately 2,000 prisoners and detainees from Turah Central Prison were transferred to it." The report adds that the organization had received reports on the arrest of 30-year-old 'Allam 'Atiyah Sayyid Ahmad on 6 March 1995. Only his mother was allowed to see his body, which was later buried under heavy police guard. The family was unable to obtain a death certificate. The death of another detainee, Muhsin Muhammad 'Awwad, was reported to his family on 10 April 1995. The family has not been told the cause of death nor given any medical reports on him. Other reports mentioned the death of detainees Taha 'Ali Ahmad Sulayman and Yusuf Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz on 24 May 1995.

The statement adds that the repeated deaths inside the al-Wadi al-Jadid Prison in such a short period of time since its opening give "serious indications of the harsh living conditions inside this prison, particularly in light of the reports and complaints received by this organization from some prisoners and relatives, who report the absence of any kind of medical care." The EHRO statement concludes by expressing the fear that the "illegal and arbitrary measures" adopted by the prison administration could be an attempt to block the flow of information from inside the prison about "flagrant abuses" of prisoners.

SCHOLAR SAYS WEST LEADING DRIVE FOR PROSTITUTION

In his regular feature on page 12, Islamic Scholar Shaykh Muhammad al—Ghazali notes that "excessiveness" is a tendency that combines extreme emotions and untamed thinking; consequently, it seldom leads to uprightness. In his 500-word article, Shaykh al- Ghazali points out that relationship between man and woman is one of the issues that is defined by either excessiveness or moderation. He notes that he is not embarrassed to hear women lecturing at mosques and clubs, unlike some men who feel uncomfortable with hearing women's voices. He explains that Islam does not ban women from speaking in public as long as their voice is serious and does not invite immodesty. He points out that the Western culture now prevailing in the world has turned the bodies of humans into "windows for sensual

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provocation" and leads the two sexes to shame and destruction. He cites a quote from Saint Matthew warning against adultery, and adds: "The strange thing is that the voice of Muhammad is the only one ringing out in this age, calling for modesty and chastity. As for Western colonialism, it is leading a drive for prostitution that has no end."

4 Jul

NC0707162395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 4 July edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Labor Party Urges Egypt, Sudan To Show Self-Restraint
2. Al-Qadhdhafi, al-Asad Mediate Between Egypt, Sudan
3. Ibrahim Shukri Urges Mubarak To Name Vice President
4. Article Urges Mubarak To Turn New Page With People

LABOR PARTY URGES EGYPT, SUDAN TO SHOW SELF-RESTRAINT

A 600-word statement by the Labor Party on page 1 denounces the assassination attempt against President Mubarak in Addis Ababa as an "act that violates God's shari'ah as well as international and local law." It says the "perpetrators of this incident deserve deterrent punishment so that political and constitutional stability is safeguarded." The statement, however, mentions that "accusations have been hastily brought against the Sudanese authorities" and that it "regrets that the accusations have led to a deterioration in Egyptian-Sudanese relations." The statement calls on Egypt and Sudan to "maintain maximum self-restraint and to refrain from any act or statement that could lead to relations deteriorating further." The statement concludes by "warning against attempts by Israel and other foreign powers to sow discord between the twin countries."

AL-QADHDHAFI, AL-ASAD MEDIATE BETWEEN EGYPT AND SUDAN

An 800-word report by Mahmud Bakri on page 1 says Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi held urgent contacts with Egyptian President Mubarak and Sudanese President al-Bashir asking them to "show self-restraint and to not let the differences between Egypt and Sudan worsen." Al-Qadhdhafi reportedly "cautioned" them not to resort to military force, noting that "the use of force or the threat of force will be not only a 'loss' for the Arab nation but a 'gain' for the "colonialist and imperialist forces as well." The report adds that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held similar contacts with Mubarak and al-Bashir, "cautioning" them against "foreign plans" to ignite the fuse of war between Egypt and Sudan. The report says Mubarak answered al-Qadhdhafi and al-Asad, "showing that he does not plan to carry out military action against Sudan." Meanwhile, the report says that "Iran has officially advised Egypt that it is not responsible for the assassination attempt on President Mubarak in Addis Ababa" and "that it has denied any connection to the incident." The report further says that Algerian, Tunisian, and Palestinian elements planned to assassinate Algerian President Lamine Zeroual, Tunisian President Zine el Abidin Ben Ali, and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during the OAU summit in Addis Ababa. However, following the failure of the assassination attempt against Mubarak, these elements panicked and fled.

The last paragraph of the report says "intensive contacts are underway between U.S. officials and Sudanese opposition figures to implement an urgent plan to overthrow the ruling regime in Sudan." The report adds that a U.S. delegation held talks with opposition figures in an unnamed African capital on 29 June to discuss this plan.

IBRAHIM SHUKRI URGES MUBARAK TO NAME VICE PRESIDENT

A 1,500-word report by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on pages 1 and 8 describes a public rally attended by Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri in al-Mahallah on 2 July. Addressing the rally, Shukri said "we reject all forms of terrorism, especially if it is directed against our president abroad. This type of terrorism is directed against us and against Egypt. We thank God on his safety." However, Shukri notes that it is "improper" to implicate the Sudanese rulers before the investigations are complete. If Sudan is accused, why don't we also accuse Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Israel? Shukri says the Sudanese opposition has acted "crudely" in Egypt. "If Numayri has the right to congratulate the president on his safety, he does not have the right to make statements against the Sudanese Government." Moreover, the Sudanese National Democratic Group speaks as if it is not only welcomed in Egypt, but also as if it has a military wing. Shukri calls for free elections to the People's Assembly and for the "naming of one or more vice presidents." This is because maintaining the status quo is very dangerous and may lead to chaos.

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ARTICLE URGES MUBARAK TO TURN NEW PAGE WITH PEOPLE

A 2,000-word article by Majdi Ahmad Husayn on page 2 congratulates President Mubarak on his escape from the "sinful" assassination attempt. It says "the experience of facing death and escaping it" is "an opportunity for overall review, for broad reconsideration, and for turning new pages." The article says Mubarak himself felt the scope of the common sentiments denouncing the incident. He also felt "how no one in the opposition harbors any bad feelings or personal grudges against him." The article says despite the controversy over the new press law, everybody forgot their differences with the government and denounced the plot. The ruler, therefore, must listen to "the demands" of his people and hear "their beating hearts." "These great people deserve a full, real democratic system." The people are enlightened enough to create a balance to "prevent democracy from turning into chaos or from conflicting with the country's supreme interests." The people expect Mubarak to extend his hand to them and to "turn the page together." The article calls on Mubarak to cancel law No. 95, which it describes as a "massacre of the press;" to reconsider the country's continuing state of emergency, which has paved the way for various forms of human rights violations; and to improve conditions in prisons, which it describes as "graveyards for a slow death." It also calls for the "gradual release" of detainees, whose number it puts between 10,000 and 40,000. It calls for a "healthy" dialogue with the "Islamic movement, which operates using peaceful and democratic means." It says that the "Islamic movement is a genuine movement" stemming from the people. To continue to disregard it, to deal with it as an enemy, or to try to eliminate it will result in a showdown with the people and their options.

7 Jul

NC1107205295

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 7 July edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Egyptian-Sudanese Crisis Viewed, Islamic Group's Statement
2. Rabin Calls for Meeting To Combat 'Terrorism'
3. Detention of MB Members Extended
4. Policemen Killed in Attack
5. Islamic Society in Italy Claims Charity Status
6. Investigation Into Attempt on Islamist Writer Halted

EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE CRISIS VIEWED, ISLAMIC GROUP'S STATEMENT

An unattributed 2,000-word report on pages 1 and 8 rounds up the latest developments in Egyptian-Sudanese relations in the wake of the attempt on President Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa, the accusations and threats traded by the two countries, the start of joint Egyptian-U.S.-British naval exercises in the Red Sea, and the U.S. Administration's call for a peaceful solution. The report also cites the Islamic Group's [IG] claim of responsibility for the attempt. According to the report, the IG criticized the Egyptian Government and said that democracy in Egypt is a sham. The organization's statement adds that "the emergency laws have been applied to the country for 14 years; political parties are being harassed and their mass meetings banned; writers, journalists, and unionists imprisoned; and Islamic newspapers and magazines confiscated. There are attempts to do away with the role of professional associations in political life as well as to repeal, through the new media law, the superficial freedom of expression given the press." The IG's statement goes on to stress that "it rejects the policy of subservience to the United States and will confront anyone who follows this policy."

A further 775-word report on the IG statement with background information is published on page 8.

RABIN CALLS FOR MEETING TO COMBAT 'TERRORISM'

A 350-word report by Mahmud Bakri on page 1 says that President Mubarak has been advised to appoint a vice president and is now studying the appointment of more than one vice president. It also says that the Israeli prime minister has sent messages to President Clinton, Mubarak, and a number of Arab leaders calling for an emergency conference to combat terrorism in the region.

DETENTION OF MB MEMBERS EXTENDED

A 150-word report by Khalid Yunus on page 1 says that the Higher State Security Prosecution Office decided "to extend by 15 days the detention of Dr. 'Isam al-'Uryan, assistant secretary general of the Doctors Association; Dr. Ibrahim al-Za'farani, secretary general of the Alexandria branch of the association; Rizq 'Abd-al-Rashid; and Muhammad Taha Wahdan, who were detained on charges of belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] Organization. The report also says that the office decided to release Jamal Sa'd Madi and extend the detention of Ashraf Badr-al-Din, director of the technical secretariat of the Union of Engineering Organizations in Islamic countries, for one month on charges of possessing MB pamphlets. It also decided

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to extend the detention of Muslim propagator Wajdi Ghunaym for one month, also on charges of MB membership.

POLICEMEN KILLED IN ATTACK

A 200-word report on page 1 cites without comment a security source on the deaths of six policemen who were attacked while escorting a vehicle carrying school examinations papers.

ISLAMIC SOCIETY IN ITALY CLAIMS CHARITY STATUS

A 300-word report by Samih al-Jawhari on pages 1 and 8 says that the Islamic community in Italy has denounced the report published by AKHBAR AL-YAWM about the arrest of 12 Muslims in Milan, Italy. A statement sent to AL-SHA'B says that the AKHBAR AL-YAWM report serves the enemies of Muslims and stresses that the "Cultural Institute in Milan is an Islamic charity that is not affiliated with anybody or financed by any party."

INVESTIGATION INTO ATTEMPT ON ISLAMIC WRITER HALTED

A 90-word report page 8 claims that the security forces have stopped their investigations into the incident of a car that tried to run over Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, the Islamist writer and deputy chairman of the Press Syndicate. It cites the writer as saying that the "security forces' stand raises suspicions about who is behind the incident."

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI

27 Jun

NC0207190795

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 27 June edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Text of Court Ruling on 'Apostate' Abu-Zayd Case Published
2. Al-Azhar Imam, Writers Reject 'Freedom of Atheism'
3. Ulema, Editor Condemn Attack on Mubarak; Dialogue Urged
4. Columnist Assails al-'Ashmawi's 'Disdain' of Islam
5. International 'Conspiracy' Against Bosnian Muslims Seen
6. Chairman of Islamic Minorities Union Interviewed

TEXT OF COURT RULING ON 'APOSTATE' ABU-ZAYD CASE PUBLISHED

The paper publishes on pages 11-15 the approximately 11,000-word "text" of the legal reasoning offered by the appeal court to justify its ruling that university professor Nasr Abu-Zayd is an apostate and must, therefore, be separated from his wife. The ruling, as the text shows, is based on an analytical study of Abu-Zayd's books. Passages from Abu-Zayd's writings are cited to support the conclusion that Abu-Zayd tried to refute the Koran by denying the existence of creatures mentioned in the Koran, like the angels and the jinn, and that he ridiculed the Koranic texts that spoke of heaven, hell, and the day of judgment. The court also concludes that Abu-Zayd claimed in his works that the Koran is a man-made text, and that the shari'ah should not be applied because it was associated with a certain period in history.

AL-AZHAR IMAM, WRITERS REJECT 'FREEDOM OF ATHEISM'

In an apparent reference to Nasr Abu-Zayd's case, al-Azhar Imam Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq is cited as saying, in an unattributed 150-word report on page 1, that Islam guarantees freedom of thought and creativity, but this does not mean freedom to encroach on religion and cast doubts on the Koran and the Sunnah [Muhammad's tradition]. "There is a difference between the freedom of thought and the freedom of atheism," he is cited as saying. The imam reportedly appealed to writers and intellectuals "to abide by the known and agreed-upon rules concerning scientific research and the discussion of religious issues and constant principles so that chaos will not prevail in society."

In its 400-word editorial on page 3, the paper says that attacks on Islam and attempts to distort its image have been going on since the Koran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad. Today, the editorial says, the atheists and rancorous ones are still targeting Islam with their poison. Attacking Islam and ridiculing its principles seem to be the best way to attain fame, it says, adding that the Muslims who attack religion from within are more dangerous than the foreign enemies of Islam.

A 200-word column by Mamduh al-'Ashri on page 19 says that those calling for freedom of expression and thought have the right to do so, and they have our support. But they should not go beyond limits when it comes to religion and its symbols.

ULEMA, EDITOR CONDEMN ATTACK ON MUBARAK; DIALOGUE URGED

An unattributed 400-word report on pages 1 and 15 cites al- Azhar imam, the awqaf minister, and other

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men of religion as condemning the attempt on President Mubarak's life as a violation of the teachings of Islam. Al-Azhar imam beseeches God to protect Mubarak as leader of Egypt and a pioneer for the Muslim nation.

In a 500-word article on page 24, Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd- al-Ra'uf notes that Islam has the utmost concern for the protection of human life and imposes the harshest of punishments on killers. He says the sin is even bigger "when the hand of treachery targets a Muslim ruler leading a Muslim country whose Constitution acknowledges that Islam is the state's official religion and the main source of legislation." He says those who planned the attack on President Mubarak "targeted Egypt and its Arab and Islamic role."

In a 600-word article on page 5, Dr. Hamid Mahmud Isma'il from al-Azhar University maintains that Islam calls for quiet dialogue and respect for opposing opinion away from violence and extremism. He says for dialogue to be useful, it must be logical and based on respect and tolerance. He cites God's order to Moses to argue with the pharaoh gently and peacefully, although the latter was a despotic ruler. This, then, should necessarily be the case with the rulers who are not tyrants, he argues.

COLUMNIST ASSAILS AL-'ASHMAWI'S 'DISDAIN' OF ISLAM

In a 500-word article on page 6, columnist Basyuni al-Hulwani assails Counselor Muhammad Sa'id al-'Ashmawi, former president of the state security court and outspoken critic of political Islam, for "encroaching" on Islamic preacher Muhammd Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi and other Islamic figures. The writer begins by saying that al- 'Ashmawi "uses attacks and encroachment on the Islamic shari'ah and Islamic ulema as a means to serve his own objectives, away from the rules of sound scientific research and logical thinking." The best way to deal with al-'Ashmawi, the writer says, is to ignore him because he is actually seeking publicity and fame. But the writer cites "rude accusations" al-'Ashmawi allegedly leveled to Islamic preacher al-Sha'rawi and says that those accusations reflected "black hatred, not only against al-Sha'rawi, but against all advocates of Islam." In his accusations, al-'Ashmawi allegedly described al-Sha'rawi as a hypocrite and said he is like terrorists and tyrants. The writer says: "Al-'Ashmawi's disdain for God's book [the Koran] reaches a despicable level when he describes al- Sha'rawi's commodity, which is the interpretation of the noble Koran, as 'a cheap commodity that will soon become dead stock'". The writer says al-'Ashmawi's writings are not meant to enlighten people or defend certain views, but they proceed from hidden hatred and desire to settle scores. The writer concludes: "Al-'Ashmawi has encroached upon many Islamic symbols to distract them from their Islamic message and their vital role among the masses. But no one has turned attention to him because the ulema and those who have zeal for Islam believe that the dwarfs, no matter how long their tongues grow, will not grow tall enough to harm the giants who won the love of the masses with their knowledge, ideas, and defense of justice and right."

INTERNATIONAL 'CONSPIRACY' AGAINST BOSNIAN MUSLIMS SEEN

In a 500-word article on page 8, Majdi Salim sees international "conspiracy," led by the West and the United Nations, against Muslim Bosnia. He cites a UN message assuring the Serbs that the recently- formed European rapid intervention force will not attack the Serb forces. He does not rule out the possibility that the force will fight the Muslim Bosnians and abort their plan to break the siege on Sarajevo.

Another 600-word report on Bosnia by 'Adil Dayf on page 21 discusses UN failure to prevent the Serbian "aggression" and cites political analysts that the UN "enmity toward Muslims" in Bosnia has now become clear.

CHAIRMAN OF ISLAMIC MINORITIES UNION INTERVIEWED

Page 20 features 600-word interview with Dr. Sidqi al-Sa'di, chairman of the Geneva-based International Union of Muslim Minorities [al-ittihad al-dawli lil aqalliyat al-islamiyah], by Mahmud 'Ushb and Jamal Salim. Asked about the objectives of the Union, which was launched in 1990, al-Sa'di cites the need to establish links between the various Muslim minorities in the world to achieve the best forms of Islamic integration. He says the Union also makes huge efforts to remove the suffering and persecution of some Muslim minorities. Dr. al-Sa'di criticizes Muslim governments for lack of support for Muslim minorities in the world, but praises Islamic peoples for the moral and financial support they extend to their fellow Muslims worldwide.

4 Jul

NC0907083095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 4 July edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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CONTENTS:

1. Ulema, Writers Urge Rallying Around Mubarak After Attack
2. Sudan's Hasan al-Turabi Assailed as 'Liar,' 'Hypocrite'
3. Islamists Sue Film Producer for Displaying 'Indecent' Posters
4. Al-Azhar Imam Addresses Symposium on Arabism of Jerusalem
5. Columnist 'Shocked' by Abu-Zayd's 'Reversal' of Repentance
6. Al-Azhar Imam Not in Favor of Proposed Marriage Contract
7. President of Islamic University in Uganda Interviewed

ULEMA, WRITERS URGE RALLYING AROUND MUBARAK AFTER ATTACK

The paper publishes on pages 6-7 an approximately 2,000-word report compiled by Jamal Salim, Muhammad al-Abnudi, Musa Hal, and Tariq 'Abdallah citing comments by some Islamic religious leaders and ulema on the failed attempt to assassinate President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa on 26 June. The men of religion are cited as emphasizing the need for the people "to rally around their leadership and translate their joy over President Husni Mubarak's escape into a tangible reality by adhering to the teachings of Islam and reporting anyone who tries to shake security and stability." The mufti of the Republic, Shaykh Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, urges concerted popular efforts "to confront terrorism at home and achieve stability for all Egyptians." Al-Azhar Secretary Shaykh Sayyid Sa'ud says the improved relations between the people and the government, as shown after the attempt on Mubarak, must be used "to advance the wheel of production and narrow the gaps between the government and individuals." Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Marzuq, deputy president of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs, proposes that dialogue between opposing views be expanded and that the men of religion play a role in this dialogue because this would "enrich thought, help settle things, and create a spirit of cordiality and trust with others". Other scholars and religious figures also denounce the attempt on Mubarak, urge vigilance and unity, and call for spreading true religious awareness.

A 400-word editorial on page 3 notes that the attempt on Mubarak showed that the entire nation, in all its groups and sects, support the leader "who spares no effort to serve Islam and Muslims on every religious occasion, and who offers moral and financial support for Muslims all over the world." It urges all Egyptians to unite behind their leader to "confront the challenges that are lying in wait for the homeland."

In his 500-word column on page 24, Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd- al-Ra'uf notes how the people in all their groups rushed to the Presidential Palace to "assert their rejection of terrorism." He recalls President Mubarak's meeting with the men of religion following the assassination attempt and his statement, earlier, that it was God who saved him from the Addis Ababa attack. The writer comments by saying that religion in engraved on the hearts of all Egyptians, including their symbol and leader, Husni Mubarak. He says Egypt will never be a place for the "mercenaries" who try to harm Islam and attack its symbols under the pretext of freedom of thought, creativity, or enlightenment.

In a 500-word article on page 8, columnist Majdi Salim says the joy expressed by the Egyptian people over the safety of the president reflects Mubarak's high status among the Egyptians. He says Mubarak was not shaken by the incident because he is a faithful man who believes that nothing can happen without God's will. Stressing that the attackers "are far removed from Islam," the writer adds: "Who are they, and who are their bosses? What are the secret motives behind the crime? No one can establish this without correct information, which is not yet available."

SUDAN'S HASAN AL-TURABI ASSAILED AS 'LIAR,' 'HYPOCRITE'

In a 300-word article on page 1, Samir Rajab, the newspaper's chairman of the board, attack's Sudan's National Islamic Front leader Hasan al-Turabi as a "liar" and "hypocrite" and calls for his trial under Islamic shari'ah. "Had Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi listened to the remarks made by his eminence the al-Azhar imam, by Shyakh Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi, and by Shaykh al-Ghazali," Rajab says, "he would have immediately realized that he was moving down the road of falsehood and deviating from the right path, and that the Islam he is talking about is his own creation, not acceptable to Almighty God and His noble Prophet."

ISLAMISTS SUE FILM PRODUCER FOR DISPLAYING 'INDECENT' POSTERS

A 150-word report by Jamal 'Abd-al-Rahim on page 1 says a court has sentenced Badi' Subhi Ibrahim, a film producer and owner of a movie house, to three months in prison at hard labor, and fined him 500 pounds for showing "indecent pictures." Some Islamists had filed a lawsuit against Ibrahim for "displaying immoral posters on a public road in the window of Misr Movie House," saying that "this is a crime in accordance with Article 178 of the Penal Code." To support their

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claim, the plaintiffs presented to the court an official fatwa [religious ruling] issued by Mufti Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, in which he says that showing indecent pictures in public is religiously prohibited.

AL-AZHAR IMAM ADDRESSES SYMPOSIUM ON ARABISM OF JERUSALEM

An unattributed 500-word report on a symposium entitled "in Defense of Jerusalem's Arabism" on page 20, al-Azhar Imam Jad-al- Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq is cited as urging Arabs and Muslims, in a speech delivered on his behalf, to "use all methods of pressure to prevent the transfer of embassies [from Tel Aviv] to Jerusalem, and to nullify Israel's decision annexing Jerusalem." The imam reportedly stressed that the international organizations have the responsibility of forcing Israel to respect international conventions, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention, "which makes Israel's status in Jerusalem, indeed in all Palestine, a temporary status."

COLUMNIST 'SHOCKED' BY ABU-ZAYD'S 'REVERSAL' OF REPENTANCE

In a 400-word article on page 6, columnist Basyuni al-Hulwani expresses astonishment at statements Nasr Abu-Zayd, who was ruled by an Egyptian court as an apostate, reportedly made to the BBC, in which he "leveled strange accusations against the ulema and those who disagree with him and said they are engaged in terrorism." The writer says it is Abu-Zayd's right to defend himself and improve his image before the Islamic public, "but it is not his right, nor the right of his followers or the supporters of the school of thought he represents, to spread accusations against the ulema and against those who disagree with them." It seems these people want freedom for themselves and deny it to others, the writer says. He says he was very pleased when Abu-Zayd declared his repentance through the press. "But only a few days later," the writer adds, "Dr. Abu-Zayd shocked us with other statements published in some Egyptian and Arab magazines and foreign news media in which he reverses his repentance and stresses that he adheres to his position. I realized that the devils surrounding him from all sides are behind this reversal."

AL-AZHAR IMAM NOT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSED MARRIAGE CONTRACT

Page 4 features a 900-word interview with al-Azhar Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq on a controversial marriage document whose authors say it was designed to protect women's rights, such as the right to work and the right to seek divorce under certain circumstances. The interviewer's name is not given. Al-Azhar imam maintains that the proposed document, whose authors are trying to legalize it, "does more harm than good." He urges that the file on this proposed document be closed because it "contains restrictions and shackles and it disavows religious provisions." The imam suggests that the Islamic shari'ah organizes marriage life in the best way, and he says there is no need to borrow systems that violate our religion and tradition.

PRESIDENT OF ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN UGANDA INTERVIEWED

The paper publishes on page 20 a 1,000-word interview with Dr. Mahdi Admu, president of the Islamic University in Uganda, conducted by Jamal Salim. Admu criticizes the Islamic world for turning a blind eye to the bad conditions experienced by Muslims in Africa, saying that missionary work forced entire Muslim tribes to convert to Christianity. He notes cooperation with al-Azhar University but sees need for further financial and moral support for Muslims in Africa.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO: Talks To Be Held in Zikhron Ya'aqov 15 Jul

TA1307150295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The talks between Israel and the Palestinians on expanding the autonomy will start on Saturday evening, 15 July, in Zikhron Ya'aqov. This was stated by a PLO official to correspondents in Jerusalem. He said the representatives of both sides will hold a brief meeting tomorrow, apparently in order to set the agenda, and will spend the night in the place. The talks will continue without interruption until an agreement is achieved. The PLO official, who asked to remain anonymous, said the talks will be held in a private and isolated spot, and that technical teams from both parties have already started fitting it for this objective.

Earlier today, Dr. Nabil Sha'th said the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians now focus on the security arrangements in the cities of Ramallah, Hebron, and Bethlehem.

Sha'th: Talks To Focus on Security Arrangements

JN1307141495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, has stated that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations at the present stage focus on security arrangements in Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron.

In a news conference held at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation today, he said his meeting with Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal tomorrow

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will be important and decisive, and will discuss releasing the Palestinian and Arab prisoners from the occupation jails.

He added that if no agreement is reached tomorrow on a timetable for releasing prisoners, the negotiations concerning their release will be shifted to other negotiations that deal with the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles.

On Meetings With 'Arafat, Talks' Venue

JN1307124895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0955 GMT 13 Jul 95

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, PA minister of planning and international cooperation, by Yasir 'Atilah on 13 July; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Atilah] Last night, you took part in a session of consultations chaired by Palestinian Authority [PA] President Yasir 'Arafat. Can we assume that this session narrowed the gaps among members of the Palestinian side itself? And will the Palestinian side attend the talks, which will resume tomorrow, with some sort of a change in stands on some issues?

[Sha'th] Yesterday's session was aimed at discussing all negotiating fields — the redeployment of forces, transfer of powers, the prisoners, and the elections. All these fields were discussed in light of various developments and in light of the lengthy meeting with Dennis Ross after he met with the Israeli side and attended part of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Of course, the Palestinian side as well as the Israeli side possess a true desire to reach an agreement. However, the agreement we signed in Oslo and the one we signed in Cairo should guide both of us. Our joint objective is to reach a new agreement as soon as possible that achieves the continuation of the peace process.

['Atilah] Do you think this peace will be achieved on the target date [25 July] as agreed on during the talks.

[Sha'th] I hope so. However, of course, we want to reach an agreement by that date which is satisfactory to both sides. Of course, the issue of prisoners is very important to me.

['Atilah] A final question Dr. Nabil. After a date has been set to resume negotiations, can you reveal to us the venue set for these negotiations?

[Sha'th] I believe our desire is to be as close to here as possible. Therefore, we are against going to Italy. Italy is a friendly country and we do not have any main objection against it. However, President 'Arafat wants negotiating delegations to be close to him so they can consult the Higher Negotiations Committee and to consult him whenever they want. Therefore, the preferred venues so far are in Palestine, Israel, and Egypt.

['Atilah] Which venues have been proposed for these negotiations?

[Sha'th] If we go to Egypt, then negotiations will be held in closer venues, like al-'Arish and Taba. As for Palestine and Israel, there are well-known venues like Erez and other various venues in Israel and Jericho.

['Atilah] Perhaps in the north, in Haifa?

[Sha'th] This is possible, too. Every area — the National Authority area, the Palestinian territories, and the Israeli areas — are possible venues. All of them are close and the farthest area is not more than one and a half hours of travel away.

['Atilah] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, official in charge of planning and international cooperation, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you my brother.

Details Plans for Gaza Development

TA1407102195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Jul 95 p 3

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gazans spent $540 million this past year building gas stations, restaurants, high-rise buildings and apartment blocks, Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil Sha'th said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference in his office, he said the amount spent was equal to the amount so far donated by foreign countries.

The press conference was called to unveil plans for the coming year, including work on a new 47 km. north-south Gaza highway costing $120m., a seaport with a floating dock, whose first stage would cost $65m., a new Marriott Hotel north of Gaza City, an airport in the south, public parks and public buildings.

In contrast with last year's donor shortfall, when less than $300m. was received out of $800m. promised, donor pledges of some $500m. this year seem to be arriving smoothly, diplomatic sources said. The funds are channeled through various mechanisms, including the UN, the Holst Fund and other avenues agreed upon by the World Bank and the Palestinian Authority. Public sector employees are being paid regularly.

Local Palestinian businessmen say that investment could have been greater but for the difficulty in obtaining loans.

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'Arafat Chairs Negotiations Committee Meeting

JN1407065195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Higher Negotiations Committee met under President Yasir 'Arafat last night and reviewed the results of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles, which stipulates the redeployment of the Israeli forces, holding Palestinian elections, and transfer of powers to the National Authority. The conferees discussed the obstacles preventing the attainment of an agreement in this respect and ways to overcome them.

'Arafat Receives Call From Yemeni President

JN1307194495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a telephone call from his brother Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih this evening. The telephone conversation dealt with the latest developments of the Palestine question in light of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

The Yemeni president said he hoped to visit the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Arab League's 'Abd-al-Majid Hit for Sudan 'Bias'

MM1207112095 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 11 Jul 95 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "Afghanization of Sudan Approaching"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is difficult for us to understand some of the positions adopted by the Arab League and its secretary general, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, especially when they are to do with topics or issues associated with states that are not on good terms with Cairo, or most Gulf Cooperation Council states in particular.

We say this because of Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's rejection of a Sudanese request for him to mediate in the escalating dispute between Cairo and Khartoum in the wake of the attempt to assassinate President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa two weeks ago. His excuse is that the Arab League is not the place for that, and that the dispute should be resolved through bilateral meetings and contacts.

If the League is not the right place for mediating in an inter-Arab dispute and defusing the situation — and this is the view of its secretary general — where will the Arabs go to settle their bilateral disputes? The Knesset, for example?!

We are not surprised by the secretary general's position. Nor are we surprised by his justifications, which lack the simplest of diplomatic rules. Besides, they are a clear falsification of the reality. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid has numerous precedents in this context. It is enough that his happy era started after the League hosted the most serious and worst Arab summit. Namely the summit held to intervene in the Iraq-Kuwait dispute. It issued the sinister fatwa that sanctioned the U.S. forces' deployment in the Arabian Peninsula and the dropping of 200,000 tons of bombs on the heads of an Arab people that is a founder of the League in one of the ugliest wars in contemporary history.

We might — if compelled — understand Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's hesitancy about visiting Baghdad to acquaint himself with the Iraqi people's suffering under the siege, and we attribute this to his "distinctive" relations with some other Gulf states that have granted him orders of merit and accorded him "good" receptions during his recent tour, in which he spoke about Arab reconciliation. It concluded in a suspicious way in Kuwait. But we can never understand the rejection of a member state's request for the League's mediation in a dispute that could develop into a crushing war that could deprive the poor in both countries of the last loaf of bread, increase divisions, and open the region once again to the interference of foreign fleets.

The striking thing is that the position of the League's secretary general emerged after his meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who said that the mediation "is not necessary" because the accusations leveled at Sudan are serious, are made not only by Egypt but by other African states, and center around Sudan's link with the use of violence against the governments of these states.

It would have been more proper for Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, who led Egyptian diplomacy for years, to have concealed that blatant bias by virtue of his capacity as representative of all Arabs and found a better way out in order to hide his biased positions and show some respect for our intelligence and what is left of the establishment on whose throne he is sitting.

Sudan's problem is that it is a poor and destitute state that cannot offer gifts, bargain over its principles, or appease Washington. It is trying to apply an Islamic shari'ah in accordance with the rules and the stipulations, not a shari'ah based on U.S. characteristics that lay the foundations for corruption and justify all kinds of subservience. As a result of all these policies, Khartoum has been included on the list of states sponsoring terrorism. And it has been denied all types of aid. Its siege has been implemented by Washington's "men" in

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the region, who receive an "annuity" in return for this role.

We acknowledge that the regime in Khartoum is undemocratic and — like most of the Arab regimes — came to power aboard tanks. But was the regime of Numayri, who has recently turned into a hero and with whom the opposition democrats have allied, not the same? And did that regime not receive every support and backing in its early days from the Cairo and Riyadh governments despite its clear dictatorial signs? So what has changed about it now?

In short, a conspiracy is being hatched for Sudan and its regime, just as a similar conspiracy was hatched for Iraq and its regime. And just as Kuwait was the bait to trap and destroy the latter, the attempt on President Mubarak, whose implementation and motives are ambiguous, is the new trap for the former. Washington and its allies in the region will need no excuses or pretexts. The only difference between the attempt to push Sudan into the assassination trap and the operation to destroy Iraq is that Khartoum's rulers learned the lessons of the Gulf war well and understood U.S.-Israelis intentions. Besides, Sudan is a continent, and its land is not an open palm that is easy to read. And any miscalculation from those flexing their muscles against it could lead to the emergence of a new Afghanistan and turn Sudan into a real base for terrorism.

If the Afghan Arabs' mujahidin have rocked the region and represented a terrible nightmare for their regimes over the past six years, what will the situation be like if these people and their followers — and they run into thousands — pour into Sudan' jungles and find there the safe haven they are looking for these days?!

We address this question to the Arab League secretary general and all those pushing him to deviate from the duties of his post, which should prompt him to be neutral!

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Algeria

Reportage on Imam's Killing, Government-FIS Ties

FIS Sources on Killing, Dialogue End

MM1307152295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Amir Taheri and Salah Jamil: "FIS Accuses Algerian Government of 'Blackmailing' FIS Leaders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — The Executive Committee of the Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] abroad yesterday held the Algerian Government responsible for the failure of the dialogue and accused it of trying to blackmail "the FIS leaders." Meanwhile, informed Algerian Government sources have stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the failure of the dialogue "does not mean that the government has closed the door to any endeavor to find a solution for the political crisis which has plagued the country for three years."

An official Algerian source who wished to remain anonymous has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "this particular path (the recent contacts with the FIS) has taken us to a dead end but the government is determined to continue its efforts along the road of national dialogue."

Asked if such future dialogue would also include the FIS, the Algerian official said that "no one would be excluded."

According to government sources, the talks held between the government and FIS focused on two main issues:

1. FIS recognition of Algeria as a republic whose religion is Islam and whose political system is based on democracy. Such recognition would in practice mean that there would be no change of government or policy except through general elections.

2. An FIS commitment to a clear call for an end to violence before implementation of the provisions of any final agreement between the two sides.

The sources said that in the event of agreement on that principle, a timetable would be drawn up for the implementation of a comprehensive agreement between the two sides within a period not exceeding one year, as follows:

1. Ratification of the agreement principle officially by the government and the FIS leadership.

2. FIS leader Abassi Madani would issue an official call for an end to violence.

3. The government would release all FIS detainees provided they sign a paper supporting the agreement.

4. A timetable would be set for the armed groups to stop violence and surrender their weapons.

5. FIS would re-register as a political party under a different name and it would promise to respect the republican system, the election principle, and the fact that the Arab and Berber cultures are the main ingredients of the Algerian identity.

6. The government would announce a general amnesty or a partial amnesty for all those who committed acts of violence that would pave the way for a general amnesty before the presidential elections.

It was not clear from what the government sources said yesterday whether the dialogue failed because of disagreement over principles or disagreement over ways of implementing the agreement.

At any rate, Madani discussed the agreement with a number of his senior aides including Ali Belhadj and Abdelkader Hachani. According to government sources, some of those consulted by Madani made additional conditions which were rejected by the government.

It seems that the main obstacle was Behladj's request that the FIS leaders be released before the agreement is signed, in other words that there would be no call for an end to violence so long as Madani and Belhadj remain in prison, on the grounds that making important decisions such as changing the name and constitution of the party while the leaders are in prison would give the impression that these decisions were dictated by the government.

Madani explained his new position in a message addressed on 19 April to President Liamine Zeroual who rejected the new conditions and urged Madani to go back to the original agreement within a reasonable period.

In a reply message to Zeroual on 19 June, Madani rejected the agreement but Zeroual decided to wait three weeks before announcing the failure of the negotiations.

For its part, the FIS has blamed the authorities for the failure of the dialogue. In a statement issued yesterday, the FIS Executive Committee abroad said that the authorities' "reasons for the failure clearly show that the authorities do not want a solution to the crisis."

It added that the authorities "want to blackmail the shaykhs politically by putting all kinds of pressures on them and by trying to wrest an agreement from them in prison although that would not be the act of free men."

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Concluding its statement, the committee said: "Let everyone know that terrorism, pressure, and blackmail, however strong, will not lead to a just and lasting solution. The authorities, therefore, are held responsible for delaying the opportunity for a solution and for perpetuating the people's suffering."

In another development, an FIS official has accused the Armed Group first and the Algerian security organs second of assassinating Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui in Paris the day before yesterday. Djafar Houari, member of the FIS Executive Committee abroad and its representative in Britain, has stated that "Shaykh Abdelbaki's assassination was a loss for the Algerian people." He accused the "Islamic Group which had in its statements threatened to kill Shaykh Abdelbaki and the FIS leaders at home and abroad."

The FIS official said that the group "strayed and became a gang threatening and killing innocent people, and a gang that does not hesitate to plunder, violate sanctities, and ruin the country." He nonetheless did not rule out the possibility that Algerian intelligence was also behind the assassination, saying that it might exploit that gang (the Armed Group) in liquidating the FIS leaders.

In reply to a question about the statement by Anouar Haddam, head of the FIS Parliamentary Mission, about the incident in which he maintained that the Algerian authorities and nobody else were behind it, Houari said that the Parliamentary Mission "is not attached to the FIS, the line it has toed is that of the (Armed Islamic) Group, and its statements are not in harmony with the FIS line."

French Intelligence 'Used' Slain Imam

MM1307105195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din: "Oppositionists Accuse Algerian Regime of Assassinating Paris Mosque Imam"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris — French anti-terrorism authorities yesterday conducted extensive investigations into the case of the assassination of Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui, a co-founder of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], at the Khalid Bin-al-Walid Mosque in Paris. [passage omitted]

Sources close to the French police have told AL-HAYAH that they learned that French intelligence had used Imam Sahraoui to obtain information about FIS activities. And that this was in return for not sending him to the Flambery barracks, where the French authorities did send a number of extremist Islamists last year (when Charles Pasqua was interior minister). However, the sources said that Sahraoui's role was marginal, and that France had used him to convey messages to the FIS.

In London, AL-HAYAH has received several statements from Islamic groups accusing the Algerian regime of murdering Sahraoui. A statement issued by the FIS Executive Committee described the assassination operation as "a serious precedent" carried out by the "hands of treachery and crime." It condemned the "ugly criminal operation and those who planned and implemented it." And it urged the "French Government to exert every effort to find the criminals, uncover clues to the crime, and bring the culprits to justice."

In a statement issued yesterday Anouar Haddam, head of the FIS Parliamentary Mission [abroad], accused the "terrorist" Algerian regime of being behind the imam's murder in Paris. He said that the Algerian regime "has opened a door that it will be unable to close" and that "by carrying out that terrible and base assassination operation it has moved the war outside Algeria's borders."

The "Algerian Community in Britain," an oppositionist Algerian association which was in close contact with the late imam), issued a statement saying that "the sinful hands that assassinated him will sooner or later receive the punishment they deserve." [passage omitted]

Opposition Newsletter Views Murder

MS1307135295 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 11 Jul 95

[Vol 4, No. 28 Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic struggle in Algeria, published by the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] supporters in Europe" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **Important announcement**

While The Enlightenment was under press, the news came of the assassination of Shaykh Abdelbaki Saharaoui.

Shaykh Abdelbaki was a co-founder of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and lived in France where he was the imam of "La Rue Mirra" mosque. He was killed today Tuesday at about 6.00 PM inside the Mosque. Another person who was present with him was also killed.

According to some sources, the murderers seemed to have been professionals and have used guns equipped with silencers.

His wife when contacted, few hours after the murder said that the French authorities are undergoing investigation. Shaykh Abdelbaki has left under the protection

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of Allah, a wife and a son of seven years of age. May Allah accept him as martyr. Amine.

Editorial — The scream of the tortured Muslims!

How strange it is to find out that the most vulnerable people to torture are the Islamists by the so-called Muslims regimes. Torture is becoming an applied science in those countries, with a major branch called "torturing the Islamists". Cooperation in the "Science of torture" among certain "Muslim" countries can be the only serious mutual business there is. New methods are developed and findings are shared among sinister services of illegitimate regimes. What is it asked to the tortured Islamists today is in principle the same of what has been asked the family of Yasir (the father, the son Ammar, and the wife Sumayyah) during the coming of Islam in Mecca. They were asked to answer yes to the question: "Are not al-Lat and al-Uzzah your gods as well as Allah?". Sumayyah died under torture while the rest of the family suffered a great deal in the hands of the leaders of the Banu Makhzum clan. The difference with today's situation is that modern al-Lat and al-Uzzah are live idols incarnated in dictators at the head of illegitimate regimes. May Allah reward all who have suffered for His sake and help to overcome the suffering of those who at this moment are in the hands of torturers who do not fear Him. However despite our compassion for our sisters and brothers may Allah protect them, their torture is a sign for the end of the regimes who practice it. When a "Muslim" regime reaches a point where in order to maintain itself in power it has to torture those whose banner is "la illaha ilalah Muhammadun rasulu Allah", it means that History has notified the regime of its coming end. More and more regimes are reaching that situation and maybe Allah is wanting good to this Ummah and "Verily, with every difficulty there is a relief." (Koran Surat Al-Sharh, 94:6).

Yes in Algeria, History has informed those who can make sweet talks on TV about the "wellbeing of motherland", that their end is not far. They have chosen the torture of the jailed FIS leaders as a means of crushing the political stand of their victims. This sordid act which may seem banal in the actual horror of Algeria, is however heavy in consequences for its future. Consequences may be unseen so far, by those with shortsighted vision who have ordered the act!

The psychological ordeal of Ali Belhadj in the Junta jail!

A report has reached the outside world about the psychological torture the Junta has inflicted to the FIS vice president Shaykh Ali Belhadj since last February. Following are some details of the ordeal which show that the objective of the Junta is to "break" a man who has stayed faithful to what he believes in. May Allah help him in his struggle and impose a life of indignity to all the hierarchical chain of his torturers.

— Shaykh Ali Belhadj was informed that he will be moved from where he was with Dr Abbassi Madani but the authorities would not let him know to to where he was going to be moved. Ali Belhadj refused to be transferred on the basis that he would not be toldwhere to. The Shaykh was removed by force and ferocity and was not even allowed to take his own belongings with him.

He was taken to the military airport of Boufarik and put in a plane. Few moments before the landing, Ali Belhadj was told by the the military officer that they have arrived to the province of Ilizi (Southern part of Algeria). They were in fact in the province of Tamanrassent. Ali Belhadj spent four months and six days thinking he was in Ilizi and writing his letters starting with Ilizi....Shaykh Ali Belhadj did not find out where he was until the 07/06/95 when he was taken back to the airport of Tamanrassent where on his way he saw a road sign stating the name of the province.

— In Tamanrassent, Ali Belhadj was put in a room with armoured doors having five locks on each one and no aeration.

— Ali Belhadj was deprived from the right of visits during all the four months. He was also deprived from his right of information, reading and moment of fresh air in the courtyard.

— Ali Belhadj was given a sheet of paper and a pencil each day which were removed from him the same day.

— All this was intended to be a psychological torture to break the moral of the Shaykh.

— Shaykh Ali Belhadj went through four hunger strikes. The last one was from 20/04/95 to 01/05/95.

— Ali Belhadj considers his treatment as "a revenge" against him writing a letter about the so called "presidential elections". The Shaykh was told by the prison administration that they have nothing to do with his case and that orders were coming "from up". As a consequence, Ali Belhadj wrote a couple of letters. One to General Betchine (On 07/02/95), one to General Zeroual (on 22/05/95), two to the prison administration where he was (11/02/95 and 15/03/95), one to the Blida military procurator (on the 16/02/95), one to the Gendarmes commander responsible for the shaykh surveillance (09/02/95), one to Maitre Ali Yahia Abdenour the president of the Algerian league for the defence of Human Rights (09/04/95) and one to the observatory of human

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rights (09/04/95). Ali Belhadj did not receive a single response.

— The letters to the Generals in particular talked about: "the psychological torture and the aggression on the mental health on the top of the physical torture. War prisoners are treated much better." Ali Belhadj sees in this "exile" a direct consequence of his different opinion from the military regime in solving the Algerian crisis. He sees the necessity of "a radical and just solution that will "extract the crisis from its roots". The Shaykh said in the letter that: "the authorities want to cancel a legitimacy which has manifested itself in an ambience of freedom and free competition with a false legitimacy that would appear in an ambience of oppression, fear and indignity. And this project will not succeed."

— In his letters, Ali Belhadj emphasis on the need to known precisely which part of the "power" has taken the decision concerning his case.

— Shaykh Ali Belhadj was let in the courtyard to see the sun for a period of one hour on the 06/05/95 and the authorities allowed one window to be open.

— Ali Belhadj was given then a radio set up purposely at a single frequency, that of the Junta official radio station.

Authorities Still Open To Dialogue

LD1307201795 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, according to the authorities' latest communique, the door to dialogue with the outlawed FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] is not totally closed.

However, as a direct consequence of the stalled talks, Abdelkader Hachani, one of the leaders of the outlawed FIS, has reportedly been imprisoned again. He was remanded in custody for three years, but he was temporarily put under house arrest to facilitate dialogue with the authorities. Amar Bensalem reports from Algiers:

[Bensalem] Abdelkader Hachani, one of the leaders of the outlawed FIS, has reportedly been imprisoned again. He was remanded in custody for three years.

This is what we have learned from judicial sources after he was temporarily put under house arrest for the purpose of the secret dialogue with the authorities.

We are told that this reimprisonment is a direct consequence of the failure of the talks that have mainly taken part through letters. These secret talks may have failed, but the door is not closed for good. Dialogue is unavoidable to reach a solution to the crisis, according to the latest communique released by the Algerian Presidency.

The position of the outlawed FIS during these talks does not refer explicitly to the national contract concluded in Sant'Egidio, but it retains its essential points, which are themselves inspired from the 1989 Constitution. There is no difference with the authorities on that.

However, the negotiations stumbled on the preliminary condemnation of violence and the preliminary call for its end demanded by the authorities, and also on the renunciation by the outlawed FIS of its plan for an Islamic state.

This is what possible further negotiations are expected to deal with. The conditions are ripe for a historic compromise that will lead radical Islamism onto the path to institutional progressive integration in a state experiencing democratic change. This is what a colleague in the written press says. To this end, the authorities may have to open up the talks to the other political parties, which they are still refusing to do.

In the meantime, the failure of these negotiations and the killing of Imam Sahraoui may lead to a flare-up of violence. The summer may be hot in Algeria. Very hot indeed.

Amar Bensalem, Algiers, RFI.

Spokesman on Presidential Statement

LD1107220495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 1937 GMT on 11 July carries a 70-minute recording of a news conference by Ahmed Ouyahia, spokesman of the presidency, to explain the development of the contacts made recently between the presidency and Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) leaders.

Mr. Ouyahia, seated on a rostrum before three microphones, slowly reads and explains the statement issued earlier on the talks, dwelling at length on the details of the sequence of events of the three-month period since the contacts began at the initiative of Abbasi Madani, the imprisoned FIS leader, who on 9 April sent a message expressing willingness to contribute towards finding a solution to the current crisis in the country.

Ouyahia says that talks held were concluded with agreement on principles and on measures of procedures. Then Mr. Madani asked and was granted premission to consult other leaders of his party. These consultations took one month, but unfortunately came out with new principles and new conditions which represent a change from the earlier position to which Mr. Madani had agreed. These demands and conditions bring us back to square one. Therefore, the presidency has passed all those documents relating to these talks to the national

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press for the general public to read and formulate their own opinion. The position of the presidency has not changed regarding the national dialogue and other fundamental issues referred to in the head of state's various speeches, the most recent of which was at the Youth Day on 5 July.

Only two question are asked during the news conference. The TV presenter asks about government measures and Ouyahai does not respond. An unidentified person states that the last position of the FIS might be due to the hard line of the armed group. Ouyahai makes no comment. Ouyahai emphasizes the determination of the presidency on maintaining transparency in this regard by bringing to the public's attention all developments so they can formulate their own opinion.

Former Goverment Spokesperson on Political Issues

LD1207141595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1102 GMT on 12 July in its 56-minute "Transformations" program carries a live or recorded interview with Leila Aslaoui, former minister of youth and sports and former government spokesperson, who resigned from the government after expressing her opposition to talks with Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, leaders. She is now a member of the National Association for the Defense of the Victims of Terrorism. Her husband was killed last year by suspected fundamentalists. She is interviewed by three unidentified correspondents.

Aslaoui says that the argument that the FIS was robbed of its victory in the elections does not hold true because, in her opinion, the process had been marred by numerous irregularities and people were forced to vote for the FIS after the latter used threats and intimidation.

She adds that the outlawed FIS does not believe in democracy and that it is perpetrating barbaric crimes through the Armed Islamic Group and the Islamic Army of Salvation which, the former minister argues, are under its control.

Aslaoui stresses the need to continue the fight against the armed groups in defense of democracy and the country. She adds that the dialogue has been hampered by the political parties, particularly the signatories of the Sant'Egidio document who called for the rehabilitation of the FIS. Parties to the dialogue should accept the rules of the democratic game, namely multiparty politics and the rejection of violence, she says.

On the subject of the presidential elections due this year, Aslaoui says they are part of the political solution and that it is the government's responsibility to deal with the economic and social problems.

Aslaoui is opposed to a dialogue with the armed groups under the present circumstances. She would like to see an all-out war against them until they are cornered and weakened to deprive them of the feeling that they are in a position of strength from which they can impose their conditions. "We are hurt and we have been wounded. We cannot look these people in the eye," she says.

Sifi Receives Chadian President's Envoy

LD1307202495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi today received Mahamat Nouri, Chadian territorial administration minister and special envoy of the Chadian president, who delivered a message for Head of State Liamine Zeroual.

At the talks, which were attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, bilateral relations and the means to develop them were discussed. The Chadian president's envoy praised the role played by Algeria for development and for the creation of stability and security in the region. For his part, Prime Minister Sifi stressed Algeria's determination to help Chad.

Bank To Issue 1000-Dinar Banknotes

LD1207133495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Ilmane, deputy governor of the Algerian Central Bank, today held a news conference at the bank's headquarters to announce the issuance of the fourth series of banknotes, the first of which will be issued on Sunday [16 July]; this will be the 1,000-dinar note. [passage omitted]

We would like to point out that 500-dinar, 200-dinar 100-dinar and 50-dinar banknotes will be issued within the next few months.

Egypt

'Current Crisis' With Sudan Continues

Editor on 'Difficult' Options

NC1207140795 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Jul 95 pp 1, 3

[Article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi': "Egypt, Sudan, and the Policy of Endless Patience"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Egypt's current crisis is different from the previous ones that have broken out between the two countries since the Sudanese ruling regime began to start skirmishes and provocations against Egypt in 1992. The Kawm Umbu incident

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[seizure of weapons and explosives said to have been smuggled from Sudan] raises new flags that Egypt cannot ignore without a clear, decisive position, regardless of the results. When national security is threatened, there are usually few options but, at the same time, they are open for implementation, regardless of the reservations.

This conclusion may be made based on the behavior of the leaders and members of the ruling organization in Sudan, in the way that they have handled recent events. They made uncalculated statements and showed extreme nervousness, showing a state of imbalance that usually does not lead to rational, or even polite conduct, especially by people who claim to be committed to Islamic values. Additionally, the threats directed against the vital interests of the Egyptian people point to a tendency for opportunism that may require confrontation. This would bring those who continue to act erroneously to return to their senses; it would show them their limits.

The policies and behavior of the ruling clique in Sudan have recently developed in such a way that they threaten to make the political regime in Sudan become a "real problem" for Egypt. Nobody in Egypt wants to see this happen. This could lead to pressuring some Egyptian policies, and there would be no choice but to pursue them. This, however, does not mean, as the Sudanese leaders usually understand, that Egypt should interfere in Sudanese internal affairs or seek the overthrow of that regime. The Egyptian officials' statements and principles are clear in this regard. But when national security and the vital interests of countries are at stake, the options that had been difficult become, out of necessity, conceivable. [passage omitted]

Hasan al-Turabi has dominated Sudan and turned it into a reckless regime that thinks it is capable of beginning a new era of movement to the east and north. This has resulted in the acute tensions that have broken out with all of Sudan's neighbors. This is particularly true since there is a flagrant failure to comprehend the difference between control in Sudan, which al-Bashir took over in a coup staged by less than 300 persons, and control of Sudan, which is overflowing with a variety of political forces, tribes, clans, languages, religions, vast areas, and open borders. Because of this, political opportunism and confrontations with neighbors may lead to catastrophes that could open the door for complicated scenarios of political factionism or armed chaos. These policies have ushered in a new era of Egyptian-Sudanese interaction, which I outline as follows:

1. The policy of "endless patience," pursued by Egypt vis-a-vis the practices of the ruling organization in Sudan, will be reconsidered, if this has not already happened.

2. If it is proven through the investigations that Sudan is involved in the recent events, there will be an Egyptian response.

3. If Egypt's vital interests are tampered with and the red line concerning Nile water is crossed, Egypt will adopt immediate and decisive measures to protect its interests.

4. If the ruling leaders in Sudan do not stop their constant skirmishes against Egypt, the response will go to an undeterminable extent.

5. Egypt may soon find itself required to not pay much attention to some customary international considerations if the Sudanese regime's practices remain unchanged.

6. Egypt will not be dragged into military action. This is what the National Front leaders are hoping for so that they can become heroes and sever the remaining links between the two peoples. However, it will defend itself by force, if necessary.

Despite all this, Egypt will not abandon its firm belief on relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples, regardless of Khartoum's position on these relations. It will work to find the formulas that are necessary to safeguard its interests while not causing harm that would affect issues more lasting than the regimes; namely, relations between the people. Egypt will have no difficulty doing this. Although its options have been diminished, they still permit reaching this goal.

In conclusion, I recall the words of the prominent Sudanese author al-Tayyib Salih, who summarized what this group is doing to the Sudanese people, its great neighbor Egypt, and to other neighbors by asking bitterly: Where did these people come from?

Al-Turabi Control Said Key to Tensions

MM1307142195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Al-Bashir Pensions Off 70 Officers, Among Them Three Major Generals; Cairo Links Ending Tension With Khartoum to an End to al-Turabi's Control of Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, Khartoum, AL-HAYAH — Cairo yesterday raised again the threats made by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the National Islamic Front, that Sudan would use the water weapon in its dispute with Egypt. It said that the official Sudanese denial of the threats "is not sufficient" and that they are threats "punishable by international law." An Egyptian official linked ending tension between the two countries to an end to the Front's running of relations with Egypt.

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AL-HAYAH has learned that Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir has pensioned off more than 70 officers, among them three major generals. They include Flight Major General 'Abdallah Farah, Maj. Gen. Muhammad Salih Khalil, 25 brigadiers, and 42 lieutenant colonels.

The decision astonished observers, especially in view of the conditions Sudan is experiencing: a war in the south and the tension on its borders with Egypt, Eritrea, and Uganda.

An Egyptian official told AL-HAYAH that the denial of al-Turabi's threats by two Sudanese officials is not sufficient. He wondered: "Who is the official voice? Who is the influential voice in Sudan? And can such threats be overlooked because of a denial, saying that they do not represent official Sudanese policy, as though nothing had happened? And what about the officials who have made similar threats?" [passage omitted]

The Egyptian official said that the Sudanese threats are "punishable by international law, and those who launched them can be brought to trial as warmongers." He added: "We had expected a stronger reaction from the Sudanese Government to these statements." He did not specify the nature of this reaction. However, he said: "The Sudanese Government must take measures to prove that its official position is to build a strategic relationship, to end the tension, and not to resort to using water as a weapon, no matter how severe the tension in relations" between the two countries. He went on: "No Egyptian official has made any statement as regards invading Sudan or carrying out a military action against it. While the statements of the Sudanese Army spokesman focused on turning the Egyptian Army's trenches in Hala'ib into a grave for it." He expressed his hope that the statements made by al-Zubayr Salih and Mustafa 'Uthman "are not merely an allocation of roles."

He linked ending the tension between Cairo and Khartoum to a halt to the Islamic Front's control of the running of Sudan's relations with Egypt. He said: "The more Hasan al-Turabi's influence over Sudanese foreign policy orientations toward Egypt is restrained, the more likely it is that progress will be achieved toward ending tension between the two governments." He stressed in particular the need to "stop supporting and sponsoring fugitive terrorist elements." [passage omitted]

Musa Sends UN Message Over Hala'ib

NC1407071595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] United Nations, New York, 13 Jul (MENA)—Egypt's Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that Egyptian sovereignty over all the territories to the north of the 22nd parallel has been historically and legally confirmed from before Sudan's independence in 1956 to this day.

In the message he sent to the Security Council chairman on 10 July and which was released today in the United Nations as an official document, Musa said that Sudan's doubts about Egypt's sovereignty over the Hala'ib area have no historic or legal basis and are no more than untenable claims which conflict with the sound legal interpretation of the nature of arrangements made to some Sudanese tribes so as to deepen the historic ties between the two peoples.

The message stressed that the deliberate increase in the sharpness of the Sudanese Government's messages to the Security Council on this issue use these allegations as a cover for evading international reactions to the Sudanese Government's uncordial practices toward a number of its neighbors in Africa and the Middle East.

The Egyptian foreign minister explained in his message that the Sudanese foreign minister's messages to the Security Council chairman included a number of falsehoods that aimed at escalating the fabricated propaganda on the situation in order to achieve domestic objectives without regard for the existing historic relations between the two countries.

He stressed that, based on its belief in its historic ties with Sudan, the Egyptian Government is interested in seeing peace prevail in its relations with it and in seeing peace in relations between the countries of the region on the basis of all the regimes' respect for firm principles on international dealings and the UN principles, objectives, and Charter. Thus will end support for terrorism, frightening societies, and pursuing polices of sabotage, extremism, and distortion of religion.

Following is the text of 'Amr Musa's message to the Security Council chairman which was released today as an official document:

Greetings.

The Sudanese foreign minister has sent several messages to the Security Council chairman that contained allegations of what he termed the "Egyptian aggression against the Sudanese territory of Hala'ib." The messages, dated 29 June and 6 July 1995, contained a number of falsehoods that are contradictory to the firmly established legal and historic fact which I already explained to you in my messages of 3 and 14 January and 30 June 1993 on the same issue.

Before replying to the Sudanese allegations, I wish to point out that the motive for these two messages stems from the Sudanese Government's erratic policy which

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has resulted in a hostile attitude toward its various neighbors, including Egypt, and which has led to an increasing isolation of the present Sudanese regime. This is in addition to recurring accusations and the amassed evidence of this regime's support for the terrorist and violent groups and which were manifested in a number of Arab and African countries. [passage omitted]

Sudan's unfriendly practices and the Sudanese Government's recurring excesses toward the Egyptian leader, government, and people poison the existing climate of friendly relations between the two nations. These practices have assumed a hostile form, such as the arrest of Egyptian nationals residing in Sudan and imprisoning them unjustly, although they have not violated Sudanese laws, and holding them in jails without trial. The practices also involved the seizure of Egyptian property in Sudan, including the Egyptian diplomatic mission's property, thus violating the established international legal agreements and rules. The Sudanese practices also involved hostile campaigns and behavior against Egypt, creating incidents, and delusion about Egyptian threats that harms the Egyptian Government and the relations between the two countries. The latest of these practices was the threat to violate the Nile water agreement which is in force and binding for both countries.

The Egyptian Government has not submitted complaints to the Security Council against any of these measures out of its belief that the historic relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese nations will help reach solutions through bilateral negotiations.

I am sorry to say that the Sudanese foreign minister's messages to the Security Council president contained numerous falsehoods that sought the escalation of artificial propaganda to achieve domestic goals disregarding the historic relations between the two countries.

Proceeding from its profound belief in the historic links with Sudan, the Egyptian Government is interested in seeing that peace prevail in relations among the region's countries. Primarily, this depends on respect for all rules of the established principles in international dealings and for the principles and goals of the United Nations Charter. Then, it depends on stopping support for terrorism and terrorizing societies, ending the policies of subversion, extremism, and slandering genuine religion and intellect. This is what we are asking Sudan's Government and regime to do.

Musa Comments on Relations With Sudan

NC1407064795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In exclusive statements to our correspondent in Vienna about his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa told us that there are positive indications that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will wind up as scheduled, on 25 July, with Israel's withdrawal from the Palestinian towns and villages. This step will mark the start of the second phase of self-rule in the entire West Bank, the foreign minister added. 'Amr Musa voiced the hope that the negotiations will produce a sound and balanced agreement.

To a question about the latest developments between Egypt and Sudan, 'Amr Musa said that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are historic, firm, and continuing. He said there is no need for mediation if intentions are good. Musa pointed out that Egypt's position is clear. He called on the Sudanese regime to stop its support for and export of terrorism as well as the amassing of extremist forces on its territory. Musa also called on Sudan to shun every policy that is bound to intimidate a fraternal people and a neighboring society.

Islamic Group: 'Positive Results' From Mubarak Attack

NC1107151895 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jul 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] The banned Islamic Group organization has declared that last week's assassination attempt against President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, although it did not succeed, has had positive results for the Islamic movement as a whole.

The Islamic Group claimed responsibility for the attack two days ago and threatened to repeat the attempt.

The newspaper AL-HAYAH has reported that it received a leaflet by facsimile bearing the title "Sit-In" issued by the information bureau of the "Islamic League of the Adherents of the Book and Sunnah in Britain." The leaflet threatens that the "Islamic Group nightmare will continue to pursue the Egyptian president, regardless of whether he is in Egypt or the remotest corner of the world."

Commenting on a report that the "Vanguards of Conquest," the military wing of the Al-Jihad Organization led by Ayman al-Zawahiri (who lives in Switzerland), has claimed responsibility for the attack, the faxed leaflet explained that the Vanguards of Conquest have "merely given their blessing to the operation." The leaflet said that although the operation failed it

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proved that the Islamic movement "has a long arm that can strike even outside the Egyptian border despite the blows struck against it at home and abroad in the past few years."

The leaflet adds that the attempt on Mubarak's life demonstrated "the Islamic movement's ability to plan and execute on a military level even in unfamiliar territory under the control of a third party that is not a friend, even if it is not an enemy."

The leaflet notes that the religious groups are seeking to "expand the area of conflict to territories not under the control of the Egyptian security authorities so that it will become more difficult for them to assess the nature of the operations and turn the Egyptian security forces' dealings with the members of such groups into exchanges with unidentifiable groups."

The leaflet severely attacks the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, criticizing it for its renunciation of violence and its condemnation of the attempt on Mubarak's life. It says: "The Muslim Brotherhood persists in its disgraceful stands and has made repeated declarations that jihad operations are illegal. It is doing this to win the state's favor and perhaps get official government recognition as a political organization."

Some sources have explained the Islamic Group's delay in claiming responsibility for the attack by the fact that the operation failed and that some of the perpetrators were still at large and had not yet reached a safe haven. The subsequent killing of three of these perpetrators by the Ethiopian authorities ruined the Islamic Group's hopes that the perpetrators would be able to depart safely from Ethiopia. Subsequently the Group declared its responsibility for the attack.

The two largest religious opposition groups in Egypt, which carry out violent operations against the Egyptian regime and all its supporters, adopted in 1993 an information policy that consists of sending leaflets, statements, and recorded cassettes to foreign news agencies and newspapers to expound their views on current controversial issues or to claim responsibility for attacks.

Dr. 'Ala' Muhyi-al-Din, a prominent Islamic Group official, who used to act as spokesman for the organization without assistance from any organized information apparatus, was killed in al-Haram Street in Cairo in 1990. The Islamic Group accused the Egyptian security services of killing him and planned a retaliatory strike against Interior Minister Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa. The attackers missed Musa's motorcade, however, and fired on the motorcade of People's Assembly Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub, killing him.

After the clashes escalated between the Egyptian authorities and the members of the religious groups, some of the leaders of these groups obtained political asylum in Europe. The Islamic Group instructed Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, a leading member who had received political asylum in Copenhagen, to revitalize its information policy. He began issuing statements in the group's name, claiming responsibility for the attacks its members carried out in Egypt.

Before moving to Copenhagen, Qasim used to live in Peshawar, Pakistan, where he supervised the publication of a magazine called AL-MURABITUN. There is a conviction against him from Alexandria's Higher Military Court in connection with his involvement in the case of those who returned from Afghanistan.

The Al-Jihad Organization currently issues a publication in Switzerland, where its leader Ayman al-Zawahiri lives. Al-Zawahiri usually writes the editorial and comments on recent important events connected with the Islamic Group. Al-Siba'i [not further identified] also writes a weekly column in this publication under a pseudonym.

Report on Unity Between 'Terrorists'

NC1307114095 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 10 Jul 95 p 3

[Report by 'Abd-al-Qadir Shuhayb]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The various terrorist groups have issued contradictory statements regarding their responsibility for the assassination attempt on President Mubarak in Addis Ababa. The contradictions confused people. They even confused those who are trying to crack the riddle of what did happen near Bole Airport in Ethiopia, particularly since this is the first time the terrorist groups have competed over responsibility for a single operation. This has never happened before, not even over the previous seven attempts on President Mubarak's life. But the biggest and most surprising piece of information, backed by data gathered recently in Khartoum, Geneva, Copenhagen, New York, Jalalabad, and Cairo, is that behind the attempt on President Mubarak's life are all the people who issued all these statements, or all these groups, united.

These groups, in particular the Islamic Group and the al-Jihad Organization, recently succeeded in uniting the ranks of their leaders in a joint front to unite their efforts and coordinate their work and terrorist activities inside the country. So it was not strange for all the sides to share responsibility for the Addis Ababa operation. [passage omitted]

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Information gathered by following the moves and meetings of the leaders of the two groups abroad indicates that attempts to reunite the two groups, the unity of which collapsed in 1983, have yielded a new draft agreement, which was reached on the sidelines of the meetings of the third round of the Islamic Arab People's Congress in Khartoum in March 1994. This took place through a special meeting of some of the leaders of the groups under the patronage of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi. He advised them to shun their differences and coordinate efforts after the successive blows the various elements of the two groups received inside Egypt. The most prominent of these was the killing of Tal'at Yasin Hammam, one of the leaders of the Islamic group, and 'Adil Siyam 'Awad, one of the leaders of al-Jihad Organization. There was also the discovery of the second formation of the Vanguards of Conquest, followed by the second group of the Returnees from Afghanistan and Sudan. The latter constitute the military wing of the Islamic Group. So the need to unite efforts and coordinate activities became more urgent to guarantee the performance of big, effective operations that have an impact.

The need arose for a meeting of leaders of the two groups abroad. The most recent such meeting was in Khartoum and Geneva in June 1995 to discuss the details of the agreement, particularly issues pertaining to the number of members in the united consultative council over the formation of which agreement was reached. Agreement was also reached to nominate the members, as well as each group's number of representatives, how to manage joint action, and the independent elbow room allocated to each group to perform its private activities.

If the information received addressed consultations on unity between the two leaderships abroad, it did not clarify the position of its leaders inside the prisons, particularly Karam Zuhdi, Najih Ibrahim, and 'Ali al-Sharif of the Islamic Group and Nabil al-Maghribi, Muhammad al-Aswani, and Anwar 'Akashah from the al-Jihad Organization, even though their approval is not ruled out.

Information indicates that the draft agreement did not stipulate a merger between the two groups. It was restricted to forming a joint group leadership for the two organizations to guarantee coordination of action, during which they would intensify their activities. So far no specific information has been received about the amir to whom the leaders of the two groups agreed to hand over their command. This was one of the points of difference between them leading to their division 12 years ago. But other available information revealed that Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman (the former mufti of the united group in 1980) indicated his readiness to step down from the leadership of the group and to hold only an honorary presidency, or perhaps hold the position of the joint general mufti, particularly since he is now in prison and does not know when he will get out. Perhaps this was the most important point contained in a message addressed to the leaderships of the two groups who met in Geneva a few days before implementing the Addis Ababa operation.

The information also noted that in view of the excessive concern Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of the al-Jihad Organization, has over the secrecy of activities, agreement was reached that every organization should operate using its own special method, and coordination would take place through the joint leadership, as long as this leadership discusses the big operations before implementing them. It is from here the belief stems that the two leaderships discussed in Geneva, and before that in Khartoum, the Addis Ababa operation and its results. They also discussed the large-scale terrorist operations that were supposed to follow internally, the operations that were most likely hampered by the discovery of weapons depots in Kawm Umbu and the failure of the Addis Ababa operation in the first place.

In the recent past evidence has been accumulated suggesting the correctness of this information. This information was provided by some important members of these groups, brought in from abroad recently by the security forces.

In Case No. 234 for 1995, known as the Returnees from Afghanistan and Sudan, Zakariyah Bashir said in his confessions that discussion took place in Khartoum, in which al-Zawahiri (leader of the al-Jihad Organization), Mustafah Hamzah, Rifa'i Ahmad Taha, and Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, one of the leaders of the Islamic Group, took part to unite efforts in response to the security blows against them. Hasan al-Turabi played the role of mediator in these discussions. He asked those present to specify their requirements, such as finances and arms.

The announcement of the establishment of a special fund to finance Islamic Jihad in Islamic and African countries within the Islamic Arab People's Congress goes along with these confessions. Some $100 million has been placed in this fund. An office was established specifically to provide for the Egyptian Afghans. The committee and the fund are chaired by Ibrahim al-Sanusi.

Among the participants in the meeting convened by the leaderships of the two groups in Khartoum, meetings that lasted a week (12-19 June 1995), were Colonel Muhammad Makkawi, who previously declared that he was breaking away from the Vanguards of Conquest and

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the Islamic Jihad in August 1993 to form a new independent organization called the al-Jihad Movement. Some believed this to be a confirmation of the suspicions surrounding this separation; they believed the separation was not a real one, but one designed to mislead the security agencies. They also believe this was repeated in April of this year when Yasir al-Sarri again declared his secession along with the Vanguards of Conquest from the al-Jihad Organization, without giving any reason. [passage omitted]

The important point is that the al-Jihad Organization and the Islamic Group have again returned to unity. This only means that they are getting ready for greater action, broader activities, and more terrorist operations, along the lines of what they prepared for in the eighties.

But this time round they have a great deal more.

They have 1,000 Afghan Egyptians trained in killing, destroying, faking, camouflaging, and disappearing, who have not yet been caught by the security men. They have ample weapons and generous sources of funding all of which have not been depleted yet. They have strong backing from al-Turabi and his international organization, which can compete with the international organization of the Muslim Brotherhood, in addition to great organizational experience.

True, their operation in Addis Ababa failed, but their threats should not be underestimated, to avoid any danger and its repercussions.

Minister Views Plan To Develop Hala'ib Area

NC1307144095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim Sulayman, minister of state for new urban communities, has stated that his ministry is now carrying out an integrated plan to develop the Shalatayn, Hala'ib, and Abu Ramad triangle in southern Egypt. The plan, costing 200 million pounds, will provide all services and infrastructure to the area's inhabitants.

In a statement today Dr. Sulayman pointed out that a structural design of the three cities had been prepared and work is under way to prepare a general development plan for the area, determine the best way to exploit the natural and mineral resources there, and define the private sector's contribution to these projects. He noted that the development of the region will involve tourist, agricultural, mineral, and fishery areas, adding that several projects have already been implemented to meet the inhabitants' demands of services and infrastructure. In this regard 500 housing units have been built along with schools, health care units, al-Azhar schools, scout camps, villages for fishermen, government buildings, ice factories, and refrigeration containers with a capacity of 100 tons.

Dr. Sulayman added that a plan is being formulated to build a port and airport in Abu Ramad, commercial markets, camel markets, a slaughterhouse, and a fishing quay to serve investment and tourist purposes in the area. Another project being implemented in the triangle is the construction of 1,000 housing units distributed among the cities of Shalatayn, Hala'ib, and Abu Ramad, in addition to 60 houses for fishermen. He pointed out that six water desalination plants had been built in the three cities with a capacity of 180 cubic meters per day. Three water tankers were built to increase water storage capacity to 10,000 cubic meters, considering that the availability of water receives the utmost priority.

Regarding roads, the minister noted that work is under way to build a network of roads 260 km long at a cost of 16 million pounds, in addition to another 70 km of internal roads leading to the al-Jahiliyah well, the biggest well of clean water in the area. Dr. Sulayman added that two administrative buildings had been opened in Shalatayn and Abu Ramad, each comprising city council offices, a police station, a telephone and telegraph office, water and electricity offices, and a social affairs center. An educational institute of al-Azhar, secondary schools, and a nursery have been built. In both Shalatayn and Abu Ramad, a fishing quay, an ice factory, and a refrigeration unit have been built to serve fishermen.

Dr. Sulayman added that work is under way to build an integrated Islamic compound, a preparatory and secondary school, another institute for al-Azhar, and a hospital costing 20 million pounds.

Angolan Embassy Denies Presence of 'Terrorist' Camps

NC1307143995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—The Angolan Embassy in Cairo denied a newspaper report published today on the existence of terrorist training camps in Angola.

Ceasar Celezardo [name as received], the Angolan charge d'affaires, today stated that the report was groundless and that his country wants to promote good world-wide relations, particularly with Egypt. He added that Angola's present circumstances do not allow it to set up such camps and that it has no plans to do so. He noted that it would be difficult, even impossible, for such camps to exist without the world knowing about

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them, particularly since there are six UN peacekeeping force bases in Angola to monitor the agreement signed in November between the government and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] to achieve peace in the country.

Musa Doubts European Ability To Settle Conflicts

AU1307091995 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2000 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Mahmud Musa by Robert Wiesner in Vienna on 13 July — recorded; Musa speaks in English with superimposed translation into German]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Robert Hochner] Tomorrow, Vienna will be the site of a meeting of foreign ministers on the issue of the Middle East. The OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] has invited the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt, and other Middle East states for an exchange of views. The Egyptian foreign minister expects Europe only to support the direct negotiations, which are on a good path anyway. In an interview for our newscast, he expressed doubts that the Europeans are able at all to settle conflicts, given the events in Bosnia.

[Musa] It has very much affected the image of the European organizations to see how they deal with big problems and cope with difficult situations. I am very much afraid — and not only I but everyone who watches the development in Bosnia — that there will be a new massacre, new ethnic cleansing in the safe areas.

[Wiesner] Which steps do you expect the European countries to take to get closer to a solution?

[Musa] If the European countries are determined to reach a solution, they have to be much more determined to intervene and to stop the Serbian aggression. Hesitation and conflicting policies are wrong. They just talk about intervention, but they never do it. The Serbs have learned their lesson. They know that the Europeans and NATO will do nothing, and they continue their aggression. The time has come to make things clear and to lift the embargo against the Bosnians so that they can defend themselves. You in Europe must consider the Bosnians as either Europeans or as second-class Europeans.

[Wiesner] Mr. Minister, how do you assess the long-term effects of the Bosnian crisis on the Islamic countries?

[Musa] Frustration is growing, partly from a certain religious feeling. However, the Muslim countries do not see this conflict just from this point of view. Egypt and all countries in northern Africa and in the Middle East, we are Mediterranean countries, and the Bosnian problem is a problem of the Mediterranean region. It influences the security, peace, stability, and future expectations in the Mediterranean.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Leaves After 3-Day Visit

NC1307062295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0520 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, left Cairo for al-'Arish on his way to Gaza, following a three-day visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, Abu-Mazin said that he met during his visit with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and briefed him on the latest developments in the peace process, the work of the Palestinian-Israeli committees, the empowerment process, and its prospects. [passage omitted]

Labor Federation Thanks Workers' Foreign Employers

NC1307104695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1537 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—The Trade Unions General Federation has issued a statement expressing appreciation and respect for the governments of the host countries that employ Egyptian workers and for the employers of those workers. The federation noted that these countries wish to employ Egyptian workers and to show concern for their rights and interests in recognition of their competence and loyalty to their employers.

The federation distributed copies of its statement to Egyptian embassies abroad and to foreign diplomatic missions in Cairo.

The statement said: The appreciation and respect shown for Egyptian workers by the governments of the host countries and by employers has provoked the enmity and envy of numerous forces who do not harbor good intentions toward Egypt and its workers. They have instigated crises, invented disputes, and exploited individual events to drive a wedge between Egyptian workers and the people in the countries where they work. The aim has been to arouse national sentiments in those countries against expatriate Egyptian workers, sabotage Egypt's relations with those countries, and harm the Egyptian economy and the welfare of those workers.

The federation said it is sure that all the concerned parties are aware of these attempts and their objectives

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and it is confident of their ability to foil them for the benefit of all sides. [passage omitted]

The federation asserted that it is necessary for Egyptian workers abroad to respect the laws and regulations of the countries in which they work, noting that this does not infringe on our national dignity at all.

The federation declared that if some excesses or individual incidents occur here and there, this should not be regarded as a general condition for Egyptian workers in any country, nor should it harm the ties between the Egyptian people and the people of the countries concerned or the official ties between these countries and Egypt. [passage omitted]

Columnist Criticizes Government's Economic Policy

NC1307110795 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Jul 95 p 12

[From Muhammad al-Hayawan's "Word of Love" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] Specialist National Councils are government bodies. Their members are chosen and paid by the government. But they have a shortcoming. Some of their members can only tell the truth, perhaps because they know their reports are placed in cabinets and never read or because they have grown too old to remain hypocritical for the sake of the government. Other government circles also tell the truth but the senior officials have no time to read what they write. These circles include the Auditing Office, the Administrative Control Office, the State Security Apparatus, and the security services. The opposition parties tell the truth. They include sober and expert people whose only concern is the country's benefit with no special attention paid to individuals.

The National Councils recently drew up a very serious economic report saying that although the Egyptian economy has made some gains, new factors are threatening to ruin these gains. Inflation has risen, domestic output has fallen, and the trade deficit has increased. They noted that the increase in annual tax revenue from 3 to 12 billion pounds has placed new burdens on both low-income and high-income groups. They reported that at the end of 1994 the government did not pay 40 billion pounds of Treasury bonds.

The National Councils noted that the size of the foreign debt passed the danger mark in the late eighties, amounting to $55 billion. Servicing that debt consumed 60 percent of the revenue from the country's exports. After the Gulf war the debt was reduced by 50 percent and huge amounts of foreign aid flowed into Egypt. The cost of servicing the remaining debt fell to 15 percent of what it was. The National Councils added that the country's foreign currency reserves rose to three times the minimum required. Part of this must now be used to expedite economic development.

The National Councils added that the trade deficit was $1 billion in 1992 but rose to $4 billion in 1994. They declared that this demonstrates the need to search for means of encouraging export to reduce the deficit. They declared that the economic reform program has lasted longer than necessary and that the economic growth rate is about 1 percent, compared with a population increase of 2.2 percent. This means the standard of living is dropping.

Most of the current harmful social effects of the economic reform program can be attributed to its slow pace. Taxes have risen sharply, causing investors to flee, companies to leave, and trade representative offices to go elsewhere. This threatens Egypt's status and hinders its transformation into an international commercial center.

I asked once that the second phase of the sales tax not be implemented. The National Councils asked that exports be encouraged by any means, that new markets be opened, and that government expenditure be reduced and its priorities revised. Expenditure on education and health in Egypt is much less than elsewhere in Africa. The tax system and tax exemptions must be revised. Tax revenue will increase, not fall, if there is a more fair collection of taxes and less tax evasion.

The National Councils said that higher taxes are the chief cause of the recession in Egyptian markets. Recession threatens production firms, low-income groups, and exports.

Nile Basin States Receive $6.5 Million in Aid

NC1407103195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1001 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Hadi Radi, minister of public works and water resources, has announced that $6.5 million, in grants provided by Italy, Canada, and the UN Environment Program, has been earmarked to set up a database to help develop water resources for the Nile basin countries and diagnose their environmental problems. [passage omitted]

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Sudan

Al-Bashir: Egypt, U.S. Working To 'Topple Regime'

MM1407104795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Al-Bashir Accuses Egypt, United States, and Eritrea of Working To Topple His Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum, Cairo, AL-HAYAH — Yesterday witnessed a new escalation in the crisis between Cairo and Khartoum. Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir accused Egypt, Eritrea, and the United States of working to topple his government "by using Sudanese mercenaries to blow up vital installations and to move the war from the south to the north."

Meanwhile, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, political adviser to the Egyptian president, has said that the Sudanese regime "is trying to divert attention from its failure inside the country by fabricating crises with Egypt and other neighboring states in a bid to conceal its crime."

The Sudanese president yesterday criticized the Egyptian Government and the Sudanese opposition abroad. In a speech delivered before air defense and naval troops in Port Sudan al-Bashir said that the northern and southern Sudanese opposition, comprised of the Ummah Party, the Democratic Unionist Party, and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, have joined forces with Eritrea, Egypt, and the United States "to topple the regime by force" by employing "agents of the opposition Democratic National Grouping," which has announced the formation of a brigade called the "New Sudan Brigade," whose task is to move the war from southern Sudan to north Sudan.

Al-Bashir said that the Egyptian Government, "which is provoking Sudan in the Hala'ib triangle, is implementing the schemes of foreign states interested in spreading instability in the Red Sea and in turning the waters into blood."

He added: "The Sudanese Army is capable of defending and securing its homeland against any invasion attempts. And the people are prepared to sacrifice their lives and money for the sake of the Islamic religion, which the government has espoused and will not abandon, whatever the sacrifices. We are prepared to sacrifice all the country's population for the sake of Islam and the Shari'ah." [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Says Hala'ib Region 100% Sudanese

EA1307164895 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, Staff Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir has reiterated that Hala'ib Region is 100 percent Sudanese territory, saying: We will not surrender an inch of it. He pointed out that the custodians of hero 'Uthman Diqnah [Mahdist amir who struggled against Egyptian and British forces in the 1880's] were defenders of the homeland, and its dignity.

The president made the remarks in Red Sea State at a ceremony marking the graduation of 100,000 male and female People's Defense Force [PDF] combatants in the state. He stressed that the 100,000 combatants are prepared to defend the homeland and the faith. He said the jihad battalion will continue to enrich the homeland and the faith.

His Excellency announced that Sudan does not fear imperialist provocations and plans however formidable they are. He stressed that Sudan is ready to deter any conspirator and hireling.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir reviewed the sacrifices Sudan has made for the Egyptian people despite the fact that the Egyptian regime is denying the inhabitants of Hala'ib access to water. He said the Sudanese people have always supported the Egyptian people in all their wars, and have never stood back from any issue of concern to the Egyptian people. Equally, Sudan voluntarily availed its territory, history, and civilization to enable the fraternal nation to sustain itself by providing the Egyptian people with water. He said: Instead of extending respect and gratitude, the president of the Egyptian regime confronts us with ingratitude and hostility as illustrated by his attempt to withhold water from the citizens of Hala'ib. However this is a futile and insignificant attempt to humiliate the citizens of Hala'ib, who have declared that they will never renounce their commitment to Sudan.

He said: We are prepared to resist the enemies, and to defend the homeland, its dignity, and the faith. He said: Our response to the propaganda and provocations of the followers of United States and the Zionists should always be to cling to the faith and piety, and head for the PDF camps as a means of defeating the aggressors.

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2 African States Said To Approve DNG Radio Station

NC1307123895 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 10 Jul 95 p 21

[FBIS Translated Text] ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned that the Democratic National Grouping [DNG], which represents the Sudanese opposition parties and the legitimate leadership of the Sudanese Armed Forces, has received approval in principle from two African countries to operate a radio from their territories; it will address the Sudanese people and urge them to topple the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime by exposing the latter's practices against the people and its export of terrorism to the Arab and African areas.

A diplomatic source told ROSE AL-YUSUF that both countries have severed relations with Sudan following the Sudanese regime's attempts to back elements opposed to these two countries' regimes and its incitement of Islamic elements to practice terrorism.

The source added that the Grouping was on the verge of starting up a radio station in one of the U.S. states, where federal law allows such operations on a commercial basis.

Opposition Figure on 'Fundamentalist' Channel

NC1307202695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—Muhammad al-Mu'tasim Hakim, member of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party's Executive Bureau in Cairo, has exposed the true nature of the Sudanese space channel. Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir inaugurated the channel on 30 June following the 26 June terrorist attack on President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

In remarks to MENA, Al-Mu'tasim said the space channel is not owned exclusively by Sudan but is controlled by an international fundamentalist group and is financed by fundamentalist groups and individuals. He said Dr. Hasan al-Turabi oversees the channel.

Al-Mu'tasim explained that the objectives of the channel were determined during a secret meeting held in Khartoum on the sidelines of the Popular Arab Islamic Congress, which is led by al-Turabi. They include spreading fundamentalist ideas by broadcasting messages to the Gulf countries, consolidating the fundamentalist regime in Sudan as being worthy of emulation and support, and preaching the establishment of a greater Islamic fundamentalist state extending from the Horn of Africa to southeast Asia and the Arab Maghreb. [passage omitted]

Government Postpones Italian Doctor's Release

EA1407104595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The handover of Italian national Guiseppe Meo to the Italian Embassy in Khartoum, scheduled to have taken place yesterday, has been postponed, because the process of handing him over is still incomplete, the Foreign Ministry has stated. [passage omitted]

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Qatar

U.S., Saudi 'Pressure' Seen Influencing Area Ties

NC1407074895 Paris AFP in English 2338 GMT 14 Jul 95

[By Hassan Haidar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, July 14 (AFP) — Qatar's new amir, who took power in a bloodless coup last month, may be forced to cool his country's relations with Iran under US and Saudi pressure, diplomats here said.

Qatar is all the more sensitive to such pressure because it needs the United States to help it develop its immense natural gas field which it shares with Iran, they added.

"Riyadh's and Washington's quick recognition of the new Qatari government took place after Doha gave assurances it would distance itself from Iran," an Arab diplomat told AFP.

Qatari government officials, however, said they gave no such assurances.

The new amir, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani who overthrew his father on June 27, had in the last few years started a rapprochement with Iran and Iraq that troubled both its Gulf Arab neighbors and the United States.

But its ties with Iraq have not stirred too much concern, a diplomat added.

"Washington and Riyadh know full well that a small country like Qatar cannot violate" sanctions against Iraq, which were imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, he said.

In a press conference last week, Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani said that even if his country felt solidarity toward the Iraqi people, "Iraq must apply all UN resolutions."

Another diplomat said "sugar diplomacy doesn't really bother anyone and does not violate international resolutions."

Qatar early this year sent two shipments of sugar to Baghdad to ease the "suffering of the Iraqi people" under the embargo.

"Except for re-establishing diplomatic relations and Doha's repeated calls for lifting the embargo, Qatar and Iraq have almost no economic ties," the diplomat said.

However, improved ties with Iran would seriously concern Gulf Arab states, he added. "Riyadh insists that the rapprochement begun between Qatar and Iran in 1992 must not hurt the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council)."

Saudi Arabia does not want "Iran to succeed in undermining the Council," which also groups Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman.

Qatar has signed several trade agreements with Iran and says Iran cannot be ignored when the six Gulf Arab monarchies discuss ways to ensure regional security.

Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim has also left the door open for a change in course in foreign policy.

Qatar is relying on the United States and their oil companies Mobil and Enron [as received] to develop liquefied natural gas in the North Field.

Doha will develop this field, which holds around five trillion cubic meters (175 trillion cubic feet) of gas on the Qatari side and three trillion cubic meters (105 trillion cubic feet) on the Iranian side, but hand 10 percent of the revenues to Iran, economists here said.

"Qatar fears Iran will demand an increase in the percentage and the participation of American companies is a kind of guarantee against such a demand," another diplomat explained.

The foreign minister stressed that ties with Iran would harm nobody's interests and would follow the principle of non-interference in the Gulf countries' affairs.

Meanwhile, Qatar's overtures to Israel are "not a divisive subject within the GCC," an Arab diplomat said, noting that fellow member Oman hosted a visit by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in December.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Arrives on 3-Day Visit

JN1307200295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 13 Jul (WAKH) — Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha arrived in Doha this afternoon on a three-day visit to the State of Qatar as part of a tour of the region.

The Sudanese foreign minister was received at the airport by Ahmad Bin-'Abdallah Al Mahmud, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The Sudanese minister will hold talks with Qatari officials on issues of common concern.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Receives Sudanese Counterpart

LD1207212795 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon in his office at the Foreign Ministry, His Royal Highness Foreign

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Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal had a meeting with the Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and issues of mutual concern. The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying the minister.

The Sudanese foreign minister arrived in the kingdom yesterday. He was met at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz international airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; Ambassador Ahmad Muhammad Mu'minah, the director general of the Foreign Ministry section in the western region; Foreign Ministry ambassador Salim Sunbul; a representative of royal protocol, and the Sudanese charge d'affaires.

King Fahd, Qatari Amir Discuss Regional Issues

LD1207212295 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, made a telephone call last night to his brother the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani. The most prominent Gulf and Arab developments were discussed during the call. The call also focused on the joint determination to continue to consolidate and develop the firmly established fraternal relations between the two countries and brotherly peoples.

Papers Comments on Fall of Srebrenica, West's Role

LD1307112195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Jul 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 13 Jul (SPA) — [passage omitted] The newspaper AL-MADINAH has said that Radovan Karadzic is the Hitler of the new world order.

It underlined that the fall of Srebrenica into Serbian hands means the fall of the United Nations and the fall of the NATO alliance and the fall of the big powers — members of the international Contact Group.

It said that rhetorical words to delude others that the West is sad at what is happening and that it is not capable of repelling the aggression have become words which deceive no one. [passage omitted]

The newspaper AL-RIYADH also comments on the tragedy of Bosnia and it says that the Bosnian map, which is being redrafted with the help of UN law and the alignment of the Western powers with the Serbs, recalls the similar scenario and acts which took place in Palestine. This time, however, the scenario is being acted in full view of the world public, which is watching the tragedy unfold but takes no interest in it.

The paper said that Srebrenica is only a minor ring in a chain of premeditated and grave acts in Bosnia. The shame this time perhaps falls on the UN Security Council members who signed the seal of ownership themselves by going along with a policy that is closer to the old colonialist spirit.

The paper concludes by saying: "The question of intervention and nonintervention against the Serbs in the UN "safe areas" has begun to take the form of one-upmanship overtly, whereas in actual fact it proves that everything was agreed in advance and that the battles and differences are intended for political consumption for those who had no knowledge of how the problem began and how the acts of the scenario were written. [passage omitted]

The newspaper AL-NADWAH said that the setting up of the Rapid Reaction Force was created to protect the international forces in Bosnia, whereas making homeless an entire people and their wholesale extermination and abolishing their existence are still being met by the West with more statements and meetings without taking a crucial stand on the issue.

The paper stressed that the West has reached the height of hypocrisy, deceit, and conspiring in the Bosnian issue. The West still refuses to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims to allow them to defend themselves while their enemy masses weapons, destroys towns, and storms enclaves.

Yemen

Joint Border Committee With Saudi Arabia Meets

JN1307151995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Joint Yemeni-Saudi Committee charged with locating border marks on the basis of the al-Ta'if Treaty and its annexes began its meetings in Sanaa today. The Yemeni side to the talks was headed by Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Malik al-Ulufi, head of the Survey Department, while the Saudi side was led by Major General Khalaf 'Ali al-'Idi, assistant chief of the Saudi Military Survey Department.

The talks dealt with the committee's action plan during its current session of talks.

It is to be recalled that the committee meeting is being held in accordance with Article 2 of the memorandum of understanding signed between our country and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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Opposition Reports Escape Attempt by U.S. Prisoners

NC1307142095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1405 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab diplomatic sources have revealed that an attempt has taken place to smuggle out two U.S. citizens. They were sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for unlawfully crossing the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border. However, Iraqi authorities foiled the escape attempt.

Sources, citing a senior official of the ruling Iraqi party who recently visited Jordan, did not clarify how the escape attempt was made.

According to the same Arab diplomatic sources, the smugglers of the two U.S. prisoners were assisted by Iraqi officers.

BABIL on U.S. Influence in Security Council

JN1307100595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has called on the international community to exert direct pressures to curb the U.S. influence on the UN Security Council in order to safeguard its credibility on the one hand, and to take care of the national and economic interests of the other UN Security Council member states, on the other.

In an article today, the paper says: The United States has lost its control after it failed to subjugate steadfast Iraq to its will, especially after all sides have capitulated to it and admitted its unilateral control of the world.

The paper adds: Any fair observer has no choice but to admit that Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions was positive.

The paper says: The U.S. Administration always fabricates information against Iraq in order to obstruct efforts to lift the blockade.

The paper expects that the U.S. Administration will continue to create pretexts in order to continue the blockade, stressing that in return for these attempts, there is a general world public opinion which is being finalized gradually regarding the adoption of an anti-U.S. stand. This stand is becoming clearer and is getting stronger every time facts on Iraq's cooperation with the UN Special Commission are revealed.

Concluding its article, the paper says: This is expected in the near future, especially since action is underway to close all the files which could be exploited by the United States as a pretext to continue its immoral and biased stand.

Turkey Urged To Abandon 'Delusion' Over U.S.

JN1407061495 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 3 Jul 95 p 3

[Article by Sami Mahdi: "Turkey Is Called Upon To Pursue a Rational, Balanced Policy With Iraq and the Arab Nation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No matter how close its relationship is with Europe and the West in general, Turkey will remain, whether it likes it or not, one of the states of this region for geographical, historical, and cultural considerations. Its inclination toward the West is only a self-delusion and an attempt to avoid its inevitable destiny.

Deep in its heart, the West rejects Turkey and only sees it as a forward base to be used whenever it is necessary to protect its own interests in the Middle East, and a frontier guard overlooking the former Soviet Union, and currently Russia. All the aid and facilities which Turkey receives are geared toward that end.

The world in which we live will not be a global village, where borders disappear and cultures melt away and merge, regardless of the communication revolution and its advanced technologies. Some old ideas, traditions, and customs might disappear and others change, but nations will, nonetheless, continue to preserve their cultures and peculiarities. Therefore, Turkey will continue to be a part of the region in which it exists and where the Turkish people have left their mark on its history, culture, and beliefs. The revival of the Islamic movement in Turkey is one tangible proof of what we are saying.

Turkey's role in the West will remain a marginal one. The West will continue to view Turkey as another non-western and non-European country which has been forced on it. It cannot but consider it as a parasitic, unwelcome guest, which thinks it is one of the family. It will only be one of them as long as it offers them services and benefits. This is felt by most Turkish expatriates, especially those in Germany.

This means that Turkey should look more toward the region in which it exists than the West. It should first organize its affairs with the neighboring and surrounding states before others. Turkey should think more about developing and improving its relations with these states than with others. Because, in the long term, its occidentalism will only harm its national interests.

Due to certain strategic considerations, Turkey might not be in a position now to dispense with the present form of relations with the West, including the United States, or with the aid, facilities, and guarantees which

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it receives. Well, we are not asking Turkey to dispense with all that, if it is necessary. However, this does not mean abandoning the need to safeguard its identity and the bases of a stable and peaceful coexistence with the states of the region to which it belongs and with which it is bound by deeply-rooted bonds. The matter does not require more than some wisdom, foresight, and a sincere effort to build a long-term policy that does not harm its national interests.

What interests us in all of this is Turkey's relationship with Iraq, a neighboring country with which it has common borders, common interests, and cultural ties that are deeply-rooted in history. We say this because Turkey does not seem to respect this relationship any more. Its blunt opportunism, backward pragmatism, and shortsightedness have driven it behind the delusion of its relationship with the West, especially the United States. Turkey has put all its weight behind this delusion at the expense of the solid facts which form the basis of its relationship with Iraq.

Turkey has not only turned its territory into a base for aggression on Iraq since 1991, but has also permitted its own military forces to invade Iraqi territory, declared its ambitions on this territory, and cooperated openly with the plotters on Iraqi national sovereignty and unity.

All the excuses which Turkey has made for these encroachments, which in fact were too blunt to be considered as such, are too weak to withstand the considerations on which the relations between the two countries are based, whether we are talking about the moral considerations or the material considerations which are based on common interests and mutual benefits.

This does not mean that we do not comprehend in one way or another the dictates of its relations with the West, especially the United States. We do, but we also understand them in so far as they do not harm Iraq and the Arab nation. We also understand them in so far as they do not transform Turkey into a bridgehead and a base for aggression, or a means for carrying out this aggression to the extent that it becomes a firm basis of Turkish policy. In such a case Turkey would become an enemy, or stand on the enemy side. This is what we do not wish for it or for ourselves under any basis or consideration.

Turkey's position on the 30-state military aggression against Iraq has left a deep wound. However, we are willing to forget and ignore this wound until it heals up, if Turkey decides to re-examine, reconsider, and rectify its position, not just by sweet words or loose promises, but by tangible measures which make Iraqis feel that Turkey is indeed a neighbor which cares for and respects the rights of neighborliness, and that it will not abandon them as it has actually done in the first test.

Unfortunately, however, Turkey's position has not reflected this spirit so far. Other states, which are neither neighbors of Iraq nor linked to it by similar bonds, have been more understanding and guilt conscious, and have showed a greater desire to make up for the past than Turkey.

Although we are not the kind of people who look for mistakes and use them as excuses to condemn others and record black points against them, we wonder: Was it really necessary for the Turkish forces to invade Iraq in such a blatant and coarse manner and to terrorize their Kurdish citizens on the pretext of hunting down Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] fighters? And, has Turkey succeeded in achieving any decisive results through this assault, or has it only over-exaggerated some temporary results? Indeed, can Turkey achieve any decisive results in this field without agreement and coordination with Iraq in the present and the future?

And, what about the Turkish president's statement on border adjustments? Was it legitimate, acceptable, and necessary, or was it just a declaration of illegitimate intentions and wishes, which are categorically rejected by Iraq and the Arab nation, and the international community before that?

The same thing can also be said about the U.S. military presence in Turkey today. The experiences of the past five years have proven that this presence is no more than a cover for plotting on Iraq, threatening its national sovereignty and unity, and prolonging the unfair blockade which has been imposed on it, after this presence had carried out its role in the 1991 30-state military aggression. Yet, the Turkish Government sticks to it and renews its agreement at the end of each term contrary to Turkish popular demands to end it. Turkey backs its position with the feeble and false excuse that it fears Iraqi military action on the North which could force the Kurds to emigrate to Turkey and thus threaten Turkish security.

These are no more than false fears to justify Turkey's role in carrying out the hostile U.S. policy against Iraq.

Turkey knows very well that Iraq is the only state in the region that recognizes the legitimate national rights of its Kurdish citizens. It is also the only state in the region that has offered the Kurdish issue a sound political solution and has applied it since 1970.

Turkey also knows very well that the existing anomalous situation in northern Iraq is the result of the U.S. military and political intervention which forced Kurdish

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factions, which are responsible for this anomalous situation, to suspend their dialogue with the leadership in 1991, resort to this form of rebellion, and indulge in armed conflicts between them causing great damage in the region and the fall of hundreds of victims.

Moreover, Turkey knows very well that the leadership's call for dialogue with those parties in order to resolve existing problems and strengthen Iraqi national unity still stands and that the course of peaceful dialogue and understanding for resolving those problems is the leadership's preferred course under all circumstances.

All this means is that the pretext which Turkey uses for maintaining a U.S. military presence is collapsing, just like the pretext which it uses for aggression on Iraqi territory and the announcement about the desire to make border adjustments. Had Turkey observed properly, it would have discovered that all its encroachments on Iraq are linked to one problem; namely, guaranteeing the security and stability of its southeastern region. There can be no real, radical, and firm solution to this problem without understanding, cooperation, and coordination with Iraq on the basis of a general balanced, tactful, and clever Turkish policy that does not give its relations with the West, and the United States in particular, precedence over its relations with the states of the region. The termination of U.S. military presence on its territory is an essential prelude.

End to Foreign Forces Presence in Turkey Urged

NC1407100995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has emphasized that the goal of establishing proper conditions on the Iraq-Turkey borders and providing guarantees for Turkey's security can only be realized by terminating the presence of foreign forces or the so-called "Hammer Force."

In an editorial today headlined "The Turkish Paradox," the paper says this ambition will be achieved when Turkey stops flirting with the warring Iraqi Kurdish groups. It will also be achieved by building a direct bridge between Iraq and Turkey based mainly on a relationship that provides both the Iraqi and Turkish Governments with the opportunity to consider their common interests, to respect the international borders between the two countries, and to stop all forms of interference in domestic affairs.

The paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, calls on the Turkish Government to see its interest from the perspective of trade links with the Iraqi economy, not from the perspective of blockading it.

The paper recalls that threats to Turkish security, real or false, have never come from Iraqi territory. Indeed, it adds, the instability of the security situation in Turkey was caused and escalated by Turkey being dragged behind the hostile U.S. policy.

Dismissals in Ruling Party Said Linked to 'Resentment'

NC1307162095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Saddam Husayn has dismissed two members of the so-called regional command of the ruling party. Baghdad observers say this is a strong sign that there is growing resentment with the Iraqi ruling regime.

According to reports, Saddam Husayn, who has reinstated himself as secretary general of the ruling party command, decided during the party's 11th Congress early this week to dismiss Khidr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri, brother of Sabir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri, a former director of intelligence who was dismissed from his post last year. He is also the brother of 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Duri, a former general security director.

The reports added that Mashghar Mudni 'Awwad al-Dulaymi, another member of the regional command, was demoted. This may be linked to the events in al-Anbar Governorate, the major stronghold of the al-Dulaym clans to which the demoted functionary belongs.

Clashes Between Talabani, Barzani Groups Reported

PUK Radio Details Battles in Irbil

NC1107165195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The heroic peshmergas of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] have recorded heroic feats in confronting the assaults of the gunmen of Mas'ud Barzani and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], inflicting severe losses on them.

At 2300 on the night of 10/11 July PUK peshmergas from the steadfast city of Irbil launched a crushing assault on the positions and offices of the gunmen the KDP's leadership in the area of (Bahas) in Irbil Governorate to foil these forces' hostile plans, destroy their troops concentrations, and halt their suspicious movements.

The brave PUK peshmerga fought a decisive and heroic battle and inflicted a defeat on the KDP's hostile

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command. They captured the village of Kalkan and several hills in the area.

More than 40 KDP gunmen were killed in this battle; 30 of the bodies are still lying on the battlefield.

The heroic sons of Irbil seized three DShK machine guns and several vehicles.

The PUK heroes also continued their victorious campaign on the (Danistan) axis and purged other areas of Mas'ud Barzani's gunmen. In the wake of their taking total control over the strategic (Kapti Hamad Agha) mountain, the PUK peshmerga seized six important hills in the (Bani Gharib) area.

The Barzani gunmen suffered many dead and wounded. Only those who fled the battleground escaped with their lives.

In the area of the besieged but steadfast city of Rawanduz, the brave heroes of Rawanduz launched an attack at 0200 on 11 July and seized the hills of (Warwar), (Kanibijan), [placenames indistinct], (Hawshi Khandoz), and (Bani Khanana). They achieved heroic feats replete with sacrifice and bravery. They caused numerous dead and wounded to Mas'ud Barzani's gunmen. One of the casualties was identified as Muhammad Mahmud al-Haj.

Meanwhile Mas'ud Barzani's forces used mortars and rocket launchers to bombard the residential complex of (Abu Nassaw) on Monday [10 July] from their positions in the (Kasazan) area near Irbil. They fired 40 shells at the citizens' homes, wounding three and causing property damage.

PUK Radio Reports More Clashes With KDP

NC1207161395 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the successive victories achieved by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] peshmerga on the Rawanduz axis against the gunmen of the Masu'd Barzani leadership and the seizure of several strategic areas between Rawanduz, (Jabal Kurak), and Wadi Balisan, the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] gunmen tried repeatedly to attack the positions of the heroic PUK peshmerga in Rawanduz, (Bishgar), and Bawa. Though the KDP used a large force in this attack, which took place on 11 July, the PUK peshmerga repulsed the attack and inflicted heavy losses on the KDP gunmen. The attacking force left behind four dead on the battlefield.

The latest reports from the (Shahrazur) axis in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate say the KDP's defeatist and capitulationist leadership confirmed its (?rejection) of the truce declared between the two sides and its insistence on spreading the fighting. At 2200 on 11 July the KDP's gunmen attacked the village of [placename indistinct] and the PUK positions in (Gamish Tappah). The PUK peshmerga, the noble sons of the Kurdish people, confronted the attackers and, following a heroic one-hour battle, repulsed the attack, forcing the attackers to flee.

Another report says a KDP gunman fled and surrendered to the PUK peshmerga in the (Wilasin) area. He brought with him a [word indistinct] machine gun and a Kalashnikov rifle.

Rawanduz came under heavy mortar and DShK bombardment yesterday afternoon from the Barzani leadership's gunmen. KURDISTAN NWAY reports today that the barbaric bombardment lasted several hours and damaged citizens' houses in Rawandoz. There is no information yet on the extent of losses.

Barzani Radio on Talabani Losses

JN1207205195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1910 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the aftermath of the defeat inflicted on the Jalalis [followers of Jalal Talabani] at the hands of our heroic peshmergas at the Ziyarat axis, the Jalalis once again tried their hard luck on the night of 11-12 July in a bid to make up for their previous defeat.

At 2200, they launched an attack on the same axis with their demoralized forces. Our heroic peshmergas, the guardians of democracy and legitimacy, managed to deal devastating blows to the aggressors in heroic fighting that continued until 0730 on 12 July.

The Jalalis' defeat this time was more abysmal than the previous defeat. At dawn, these forces fled to their previous positions, leaving behind scores of dead and wounded. The bodies of their dead have continued to litter the areas facing the positions of Kurdistan's peshmergas. Moreover, they left behind scores of weapons pieces and ammunition quantities. Most of those killed did not have identity cards on them. It appears that the Jalalis' leaders confiscated them before the assault to preclude the identification of their bodies and to prevent their relatives from knowing about their deaths. Among the bodies identified were those of Commanding Officer Kawa 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and one of his brothers; namely, Salah 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman.

Dear citizens: Thus, the Jalalis have exposed themselves as people who are waging losing and futile wars. They are pushing the poor Kurds to the incinerator of war.

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On the (Elan)-Shaqlawah axis, the Jalalis have become a lesson to whomever needs to learn lessons.

O honorable masses of Kurdistan: We have been informed a short while ago that an attack by the Jalalis has been repulsed.

The heroes of the (Elan)-Shaqlawah axis have announced that the Jalalis attacked the Shaqlawah axis from the (Elan) axis at 0200 on the night of 11-12 July. In heroic fighting that lasted only one hour, the fighters of the Barzani party managed to defeat the remnants of the Jalalis and frustrate their futile ambitions. The aggressors left behind them tens of dead bodies in front of the citadels of our heroic peshmergas, tens of pieces of weapons, and quantities of equipment. [passage omitted]

The (Bahrajah) axis: According to the latest information we have received from the (Bahrajah) axis and the village of Kalakan, we have learned that the Jalalis left 15 dead bodies in front of the positions of our peshmergas. The bodies did not have identity cards on them with the exception of five bodies. [passage omitted] The Jalalis also left behind a large quantity of weapons and ammunition. [passage omitted]

Irbil: Reliable information from Irbil has stated that some 180 Jalalis wounded in the Irbil battles have been hospitalized in Irbil. Thirty of these wounded passed away at hospitals. From among the Jalalis killed was one of the sons of (?Ghafa), leader of a gang of thieves. [passage omitted]

TV Reports Renewed Clashes

JN1207201195 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Widespread clashes renewed today between the Talabani and Barzani groups in the autonomous region. The two sides today traded accusations and aspersions. Each side claimed to have made great victories over the other side, made it sustain heavy losses, and occupied its positions. Each side also spoke about dozens of bodies spread over all areas.

Reliable sources told a private correspondent for the Iraqi News Agency there that more than 40 civilians from the city of Irbil were taken to the Republican Hospital, including a large number of children who were hit by fragments from artillery shells. Four of those who were injured died today at Irbil Hospital. The private correspondent of the Iraqi News agency also reported that 15 civilians were killed in the village of (Bigirga), 10 km from the city of Irbil.

Another report said the city of Rawanduz came under heavy mortar shelling and machine-gun fire yesterday and today. As a result, severe damage was caused to the houses of citizens and casualties were reported. Burhan Salih, representative of Jalal Talabani in Washington, today accused Turkey of instigating Barzani to carry out a large-scale attack on the positions of his armed men. Over the past three days, the armed men of Talabani have failed to encircle the city of Shaqlawah and suffered huge losses.

Rival Kurdish Groups Clash in North

LD1307114695 Tehran IRNA in English 1121 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kermanshah, July 13, IRNA — Rival Kurdish groups have been fighting for control of Rawanduz and Shahrazur regions, northern Iraq, since Wednesday, disclosed the Iraqi Kurdish sources on Thursday.

According to the sources, the clashes broke out when the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) forces, led by Mas'ud Barzani, made an attempt to capture the areas.

The Kurdish sources added that the fighting in which heavy and light weaponries were deployed was going on till Thursday morning. However, they declined to give any detail of the casualties.

Sulaymaniya Television, run by Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), whose forces are engaged in the battle, confirmed the flare-up Wednesday night.

PUK Reportedly Repulses KDP Attack

NC1307163795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The aggressive leadership of Mas'ud Barzani [KDP] is trying its luck again. It continues attacking our forces' positions in various areas, hoping to score a military victory to raise the morale of its collapsing forces.

At 0300 today, the gunmen of the treasonous leadership of Mas'ud Barzani attacked the positions of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] forces in the (Balayan) plain to destroy the citizens' property there. The (Balayan) forces confronted them and prevented them from reaching their aggressive goals. In a four-hour battle, our forces repulsed the attackers and caused dozens of casualties and wounded among the attackers. The survivors fled the battle.

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TV Reports on Clashes

JN1307200595 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Irbil about the progress of military clashes between the Talabani and Barzani cliques indicate that the clique of Jalal Talabani yesterday sustained huge losses in the attack it launched on the positions of the Barzani group in Shahrbazar in Irbil Governorate.

The attack of the Talabani group was led by Jabbar Farman, whose name was in the past Jabbar Farhan and was appointed by Jalal Talabani as minister of defense. However, he can issue orders only to the group around him.

The private correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency in Irbil said that as a result of their attack on the city of Shaqlawah the day before yesterday [11 July], 45 people were killed and more than 150 others injured from the group of Jalal Talabani. The forces of Barzani managed to repulse this attack.

The Iraqi News Agency correspondent also reported that 'Ali 'Abdallah Jabir, a member of the Political Bureau of the Jalal group, is among the dead, in addition to three aides of Jalal, who are Rahmat Khadr 'Abdallah, Khamis 'Ali Muhammad, and Ahmad Falih. The correspondent added that the Republican Hospital in Irbil is full of injured people. Yesterday, more than 180 injured people of the Jalal group arrived at the hospital, 30 of whom have died so far.

The regions of Raniyah, Qal'at Dizah, and Sangasar have witnessed widespread clashes, in which many people were either killed or injured yesterday and today.

In another development, a correspondent for the Iraqi News Agency in London has reported that Nushirwan Mustafa, Jalal Talabani's assistant, is now in the British capital, because of sharp differences between him and the Jalal group. Nushirwan plans to form a new party in the autonomous region and to bear arms against Jalal and Barzani. Nushirwan Mustafa accuses 'Abdallah Rasul, who is called Kusert, of stealing $1 million in coordination with Jalal and not giving him his share.

Barzani Radio Says 10 Jalalis Killed

JN1307204395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1825 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 0300 on the night of 12-13 July, our heroic peshmergas launched a counterattack on the defeated Jalalis in retaliation for their aggressions and attacks on the defense positions of the peshmergas of Kurdistan. The Jalalis were expelled from (Zaradih), which is considered the gate of the (Watih) area. Ten Jalalis were killed and many others were wounded.

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Syrian Bid To Buy Argentine Nuclear 'Know-How' Seen

TA1407074395 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Jul 95 pp 1, 9

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel's top political leaders are worried about reports that Syria is trying to buy know-how and equipment from Argentina that will enable it to develop nuclear capability.

It has been learned that the issue will be discussed within the next few days when Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella arrives in Israel for a visit. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres instructed Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich to raise the issue with senior State Department officials in Washington.

A document drafted by the Israel Atomic Energy Commission [IAEC] and sent to the Foreign Ministry this week states that "Israel must resolutely object to Argentina's plans to sell Syria a five-megawatt research nuclear reactor operating on enriched uranium. There is no ignoring the risk that such cooperation could provide an opportunity and a cover for irresponsible elements in Argentina to develop relations with Syria on far more dangerous issues."

According to information Israel has received from various sources, Argentina plans to provide Syria with the following items:

— know-how on the production of radioisotopes with a potential for expansion, with a view to building a plant;

— a radioactive waste disposal facility;

— a radioisotope laboratory and facility.

IAEC sources are convinced that "Syria's efforts reflect a wish to develop a comprehensive national nuclear project."

It should be pointed out that the issue came up in recent months in contacts between Israeli representatives in Buenos Aires and Argentine Government officials, who assured the former that their country had no plans to sell nuclear equipment to Syria. Nevertheless, Israel found out that Argentina notified the U.S. Administration of its intentions to sell a five-megawatt reactor to the Syrians. To repeat, Amb. Rabinovich will explore the issue next week.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT obtained yet another document drafted by Li'ora Herzl, director of the Foreign Ministry's Arms Control Division, in which she writes that "Argentina's position has been inconsistent. In my opinion, the sale of a nuclear reactor has not been struck off the agenda."

The document goes on to say that Argentina will justify the sale of such sensitive equipment by saying that it is meant for research purposes.

Problems Remain on Syria Track After Ross Meeting

TA1407052895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. envoy Dennis Ross' current round of talks has in fact failed, says our political correspondent Shlomo Raz at the end of the meeting between Ross and Prime Minister Rabin. Ross said after the meeting last night that difficulties in substance and procedure emerged in the talks with the Syrians.

Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, confirmed that disagreements and difficulties had emerged in the talks with the Syrians. He added that no date has been set for the resumption of the talks between Israeli and Syrian officers and that Israel is awaiting Syria's answers on several issues.

[A report by Aluf Ben and 'Aqiva Eldar on page A1 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 14 July adds: "According to Israeli sources, the Syrians demanded additional concessions from Israel as a condition for the resumption of the talks. Rabin made clear to Ross that Israel will not change its positions on matters of substance in order to secure the resumption of the talks and that it adheres to the current understanding that the meeting of the chiefs of staff should be followed by talks on the level of generals. According to the sources, the Syrians did not raise new demands but once again put up obstacles, mainly on questions of procedure related to matters of substance pertaining to the security arrangements on the Golan Heights."

[The report adds that Rabinovich "blamed the Syrians for the freeze in the talks." He noted that Ross obtained Syria's approval on a variety of issues, "but the practical result of abiding by what was agreed upon last month was not attained."

[The report goes on to cite Israeli sources in Washington as saying that "Syria reneged on the agreements in principle reached in the last few months in the talks mediated by the United States" and that "in Damascus, Ross heard positions contradicting the spirit of the statements made by Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi."]

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Peres Holds News Conference on Peace Talks

Decries Ultimatum on PLO Prisoners

AU1307175595 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 1600 GMT 13 Jul 95

[Report by Hartmuth Fiedler on news conference by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Vienna on 13 July — recorded; Peres speaks in English with superimposed German translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] The agreement on the extension of Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank is to be concluded by 25 July. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today indicated that the agreement will not have to be postponed as it has been so many times before. Several important problems still have to be settled in the talks with the PLO, he says.

[Peres] The main issue is Jerusalem's participation in the first Palestinian elections, scheduled in the fall. Then there is the distribution of water and land. And then we have to get through a lot of bureaucracy to transfer the authority of administration. We are trying to conclude the agreement by the end of this month.

[Fiedler] Another issue that is of great importance to the PLO is the release of over 5,000 Palestinian prisoners. The PLO's chief mediator, Nabil Sha'th, today demanded the immediate release of 2,000 Palestinians and a detailed schedule for the release of the other prisoners. Otherwise, there will be no agreement, he said. Peres gives a dry answer to that: It is pointless to issue an ultimatum. The release will be carried out in two phases.

[Peres] The release will take place in two stages: the first before the signature of the agreement, the second before the elections.

[Fiedler] Peres did not indicate how many prisoners will be released.

Comments on Lessons in Bosnia

AU1407091995 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 14 Jul 95 p 3

[Report by "(est)" on news conference by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Vienna on 13 July: "'In Bosnia Europe Can Learn From Us'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vienna — A lot of paperwork still has to be done before the conclusion of the current autonomy talks with the Palestinians by — according to most recent plans — 25 July, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said in a news conference on the sidelines of a meeting of leaders of Mediterranean basin countries in Vienna. One question regarding the Palestinian election plans, for example, is how the poll can be held in Jerusalem.

Pending Issues

Apart from the issue of the course of the border, which is essential for Israel, and the water rights, other specific questions involve the handing over of responsibilities to the Palestinian autonomy administration. For the first time, the Palestinians will themselves be responsible for their educational system. "They never were, neither under the Ottoman Turks, the British, Egyptians, or Jordanians."

Asked about the release of Palestinian prisoners, Peres said that this will take place gradually as the negotiations progress without one side being able to deliver an ultimatum to the other.

Asked by DER STANDARD whether it is not a weakness of the agreements that the Israeli troop withdrawal will drag on until 1997, while the 1996 parliamentary elections might bring in a Likud government, Peres said: "I hope that the next government will be the same as the current one." If not he expects the new government to respect the decisions of the old one. There is, however, the fear that the ruling Labor Party could "lose politically what we have gained historically."

Asked about the Bosnia conflict, Peres noted that here the Europeans could "learn from us." He described Israel as the democratic opposite of Serbia. "Even though we are economically independent and a strong military power, we are conceding the Palestinians freedom and autonomy."

The Israeli official criticized the international community's attitude after the fall of the first Bosnian UN safe area: "If one promises to protect something then one has to defend it; anything else would be cynical."

Switching back to the Middle East, Peres noticed "a minimum of progress" in the talks with Syria, "while we need a major success, since time is scarce." He denied rumors about on talks being held with Iraq "because we do not trust Saddam Husayn."

Nuclear Problems

Before his talks with the Egyptian foreign minister [in Vienna], who Peres met after talks with Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky on Thursday, he stated that fears in connection with Iran were another issue. The nuclear power program of Iran, a country so rich in oil, could only serve the objective of developing a "nuclear potential." In the face of the threat by nuclear high-tech fundamentalism, minor differences of opinion would have to be ignored. Israel will not sign the

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Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in the future either, since "Iran, Iraq, and North Korea did not take their signatures seriously." As far as Israel's nuclear potential is concerned, the enemies should believe it existed. "Their suspicion is our deterrence."

Import Duties for Deals With Far East Lowered

TA1307105695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jul 95 p 8

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish yesterday adopted recommendations to lower local import duties in return for greater access to new markets, mostly in the Far East.

Treasury International Division director Ehud Kaufman, who was appointed by Harish to head a committee to study ways to promote trade relations with countries that have no trade deals with Israel, said the country's attractiveness can be used as leverage to open new markets.

"We have learned from experience that Israel's economy loses if it focuses its trade exclusively with countries with which it has free trade agreements," Kaufman said.

The cut in import duties would lower the cost of imports, and in return Israeli goods could receive preferential tariff treatment, access to finance and government procurement, cooperation in international foreign aid programs, and technology exchange and bilateral arrangements that benefit the business sector.

Although the recommendations apply to all countries that do not have trade deals with Israel, the committee decided to focus on Korea and Japan — since there is a concrete proposal which interests them, Kaufman said.

The Israel Electric Corporation is planning a $250 million tender for ultra-high voltage underground transmission cables. If duties are lowered on Korean and Japanese cables, they would be competitive against the European duty-free products.

Kaufman said the government will base the extent of the reduction in duties on the amount of access these countries will provide Israel to their markets.

Japan and Korea are interested in getting into this market given the rapidly increasing demand for such cables in the country's densely populated areas.

Rabin: Efrat Site Expansion To Be Approved

TA1307155595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the Hazayit Hill site near Efrat has been zoned for settlement for more than a year.

In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, the prime minister said if the Efrat Council requests that mobile homes be set up at the site then the government will approve the request.

His comments follow clashes between settlers and police over the past few days.

Segev: Energy Network in W. Bank Must Be Kept

TA1107110295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Evelyn Gordon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The energy infrastructure in Judaea and Samaria must stay in Israel's hands as part of any agreement with the PLO, Energy Minister Gonen Segev told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

Segev, briefing reporters afterward, explained that a properly functioning electricity network is critical to the army bases in the territories.

"Therefore, all the energy infrastructure must remain in Israel's hands — as well as (the right of) development in the future," he said.

Segev said Israel will experience a revolution in its energy supply in the next two or three years, as it begins switching more of its energy production from oil to natural gas.

He said he eventually hopes to produce 20%-30% of the country's total energy and 50% of its electricity with gas, since gas has three advantages: it is easier on the environment; gas power stations require less land; and gas is more evenly distributed throughout the world. About 60% of known oil reserves, in contrast, are in the Middle East.

However, he added, Israel is hoping its main gas suppliers will be Egypt and Qatar. Segev said he hopes to have an agreement with Egypt signed by the end of the year, having finally received an okay in writing from the Egyptian energy minister.

Nuclear power, while a good alternative to oil in theory, is not an option for Israel within the next decade, Segev said, because setting up a nuclear power plant would require Israel to sign the non-proliferation treaty.

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"However, we don't rule out this option over a period of 20 years," he said.

Increased sources of energy are critical, he said, because Israel's electricity consumption is expected to double in the next decade. Over the past decade, consumption increased by 163%, while production capacity increased only 130%.

New Jewish Organization To Guard Roads

TA1107103395 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 11 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Text] SHAY, the acronym for Shomer Yisra'el [Guard of Israel], whose aim is to carry out patrols and safeguard roads in Judaea and Samaria following the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal, is currently completing its preparations to begin operations.

The organization was previously called Hashomer [The Guard] but the Council of Jewish Settlements of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip decided to change the name so as not to confuse it with the Hashomer organization at the turn of the century.

Our correspondent has learned that all patrols will be headed by a member of Aharay [Follow Me], which is made up of 500 senior officers in the reserves. The new organization is backed by several opposition Knesset members, led by Reserve General Moshe Peled of Tzomet.

The organization's headquarters have started operating in a Jewish settlement in the heart of Samaria. The patrols will be carried out by dozens of volunteers, most living inside the Green Line, but the vehicles with specially protected windows belong to residents of Judaea and Samaria. The initiators of the idea told our correspondent they would make sure their actions did not break the law.

SHAY's says that each vehicle will contain several guards armed with personal weapons and that their number would be decided by the type of road and mission. All the teams will receive instruction and brief training prior to their missions. A center, whose telephone number will be made public soon, will receive reports and announcements about events taking place, and the vehicles containing the armed guards will be sent to those sites.

Aharay sources said a call will soon be issued through the settlers' council to all Civil Guard volunteers in the center of the country to resign and to carry out their guard duties within the SHAY framework. The patrols in the towns in the center of the country will be carried out by police pulled out of Judaea and Samaria, Aharay said.

Attorney General Not To Charge Rabbis on Decree

TA1307155995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The country is still reverberating from yesterday's rabbinical ruling that soldiers must disobey orders to evacuate army bases or settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

The attorney general has examined a copy of the halakic decree issued by a group of rabbis from the religious Zionist movement headed by former Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira. The attorney general announced a short time ago that he will not press charges against the rabbis.

The Likud has called a meeting of all opposition parties next week to discuss their reaction. Knesset members from the Likud and Tzomet are warning that the rabbis' ruling threatens to split the Israeli right wing. [passage omitted]

Reaction To Halakic Ruling on Evacuation Noted

Poll: Majority Opposes

TA1307133995 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Jul 95 pp 1, 19

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabbis have no right to issue halakic rulings concerning the evacuation of settlements and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bases in Judaea and Samaria, according to 77 percent of the respondents polled by YEDI'OT AHARONOT. Only 22 percent believe that rabbis have such a right, while 1 percent did not reply.

Asked whether legal measures should be taken against rabbis who instruct soldiers to disobey orders and to refuse to evacuate settlements and bases in Judaea and Samaria, a majority of 58 percent said such measures should be taken, 40 percent said they should not, and 2 percent did not answer.

Asked whether soldiers must obey an halakic ruling banning the evacuation of settlements and bases contrary to the orders of their officers, a majority of 81 percent said they must not obey such a ruling, 16 percent said they must, and 3 percent did not reply.

The poll was conducted yesterday among 507 respondents who constitute a representative sample of Israel's

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adult population. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Storm Expected To 'Subside'

TA1307103095 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Jul 95 p 2

[Editorial: "The Halakah and the Order"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, 15 rabbis, headed by former Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira, ruled that there is a biblical ban on handing over to goyim even a single military camp in Judaea and Samaria. Although a larger number of rabbis and almost all of the political parties' spokesmen ruled otherwise, the feeling was yesterday that we are on the brink of a civil war.

There is no doubt that the people to which this halakic ruling applies — the Judaea and Samaria settlers, the hesder yeshiva students, and their affiliates — understand full well that obeying it could lead to a disaster, first and foremost for the state. Their left-wing opposition, which does not stop stressing that we are faced with a negligible minority, also issues frightening statements about how dangerous this group is to democracy.

Though they lash out at the rabbis, stating that "Israel is no banana republic" and "will never be ruled by ayatollahs," even the most unflinching advocates of democracy realize that a halakic edict by a group of rabbis is not a call for civil revolt — at least not a mandatory call — and that there is no need to mobilize their loyalists to the barricades just yet.

It can be assumed, therefore, that the storm will subside in a day or two, provided that the various initiators avoid unnecessary teasing that might restart the fire that burst out yesterday .

Government, 'Uprising' Criticized

TA1207141695 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 12 Jul 95 p 2

[Editorial: "In the Wake of a Bad Meeting With the Prime Minister"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The representatives of Jewish settlers in Judaea and Samaria left their meeting with Prime Minister Rabin disappointed. They came to the meeting with the hope that in a tete-a-tete talk they would be able to influence the prime minister into preventing his government from taking measures under the second stage of the "Oslo Accords" which may endanger their safety and well-being. Mr. Rabin though, even if he lent an attentive ear to their remarks, repeated his version that it is no longer possible to refrain from implementing the agreement as signed in Oslo. At the same time, he admitted that the army is also not at peace with the plans being worked out in the framework of the second stage of this agreement, but he emphasized it is the political echelon that determines the policy and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] should fall in line.

This was one of the most painful meetings, not only for the Jewish settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, but presumably also for the prime minister. They did not manage to reach the minimum of a dialogue necessary to cope together with the dangers lurking for the 130,000 Jewish settlers in Judaea and Samaria.

It seems that the prime minister ignored the weighty arguments presented to him. He remains "closed within himself," and it was impossible to change the government from running amok toward a full settlement with the PLO which appears to be the legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

The representatives of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlers, who left the meeting with the prime minister disappointed, said, among other things, that under the circumstances they have no choice but to organize a "civilian uprising" to defend their lives. This comment by the settlers, even if it is understandable, is difficult to accept. This is not the right way to take on public struggles. It is absolutely necessary to adhere to the law, even if one is not at peace with the government's decisions.

Naturally, one cannot deny the right of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlers to struggle to prevent the continued implementation of the "Oslo Accords" which harbor dangers to the security of both the people and the state. At the same time, however, it is absolutely necessary to make sure that the struggle does not deviate from the framework of the law which is the basis for democracy in the country.

To demonstrate — yes! To launch a civilian uprising — absolutely not!

We must not reach civil war. Such a war may be even more dangerous than the dangers the "Oslo Accords" harbor.

At the same time, we must reiterate to the prime minister that his government does not enjoy the support of the majority of the Jewish public in Israel. It must take this majority into account and avoid adopting measures which totally contradict order and life under democratic regimes in the world.

A minority government must not impose its opinion on the majority of the public, just as we do not accept a "civilian uprising" against a legal government.

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We want to hope that even after he rejected the requests by the Jewish settlers Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will reconsider and also understand that this argument goes beyond the usual opposition-coalition division. We are faced with an argument where the majority of the people stand on one side while the minority government stands on the other.

Whoever is loyal to democracy and calls on his opponents to respect the rules of democracy is not rid of the duty to behave as a democrat and take the majority's opinion into consideration, even if it is not represented in the government.

The more Rabin understands this, the better off he and the people and State of Israel will be.

'State of Judaea' Called For

TA1207130295 (Internet) Judean Voice in English 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "Settlers" left a meeting with Rabin yesterday feeling abandoned. "We are like two trains speeding towards each other on the same track," was the description one "settlement" leader offered after the futile meeting with Rabin. At the meeting, Rabin reiterated that there was no turning back from the deal with the PLO — and the "settlers" responded: "there will be a blood bath."

When the "settlers" expressed their concern that the surrender of land and cities to the PLO will turn some "settlements" into "Netzarim" (referring to the settlement in Gaza which is surrounded by hostile Arabs and subject to ongoing terrorist attacks), Rabin answered: "there will be many more Netzarims".

"Rabin has simply gone mad," responded one of the leaders after exiting the meeting with Rabin. Rabin refused to retract the statement he made last week in which he called Rabbis "Ayatollahs". However, Rabin did say that he was not referring to all Rabbis, but to some who reside abroad. Some "settlement' leaders are beginning to talk about stepping up the intensity and scope of their protests to include blocking traffic throughout Israel, seizing Arab holy places, and taking over IDF bases after strategic bases in Judea and Samaria are handed over to the PLO Authority.

In the meantime, Israeli and PLO negotiators have entered marathon negotiations in Italy to reach an agreement before the proposed July 25 signing of the second phase of the Oslo accords in Washington. Judean Voice Commentary:

The only practical way for the "settlers" to ensure their future security and sustenance in Judaea and Samaria is by creating an independent economic and security infrastructure which does not depend on Rabin or any other Israeli leaders. The agenda of this government is clear. The willingness and ability of the present government to protect Jews in the "territories" from an Arab onslaught is very questionable. Jews who love the "settlements" and who want to see some form of Jewish sovereignty over these areas are going to have to divorce themselves from the illusion that they can count on Rabin to save them.

The late Rabbi Kahane's proposal to create a state of Judaea after the Israeli pullout may be the only way to retain or restore some level of Jewish sovereignty in those areas. Unfortunately, the "settlement" leaders refuse to accept the reality and continue to oppose such ideas.

Baraq Denies YEDI'OT Charges on Ze'elim

TA1407074995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former Army Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq gave his side of the story last night. It was a week ago today that the YEDI'OT AHARONOT daily published the results of an investigation which, it said, proved that General Baraq had abandoned casualties after the Ze'elim B training accident and was involved in a cover-up. Neil Sandler reports on last night's exclusive Baraq interview with Channel 1 Television.

[Begin Sandler recording] Ehud Baraq accused Israel's largest newspaper of carrying out a vicious attack against him and of outright lying in its expose on the Ze'elim B training accident. In a televised interview last night, the former IDF [Israel Defense Forces] chief of staff said the publication of the expose was politically motivated. He bitterly attacked the editors of YEDI'OT AHARONOT, calling them a militant gang of overly-powerful individuals who were conducting a character assassination. He charged the investigation by the newspaper of the Ze'elim training accident was filled with lies. Baraq denied ever having left the scene of the accident, saying he did so only after the helicopter carrying the wounded soldiers had left the area. He also said that he acted properly by overseeing the entire evacuation and that another tragedy did not occur. He stressed that the chief of staff and his deputy are not medics and they had to oversee the overall operation.

The former chief of staff also rejected the claim in the expose that he changed his testimony in two separate army investigations of the accident regarding the overall responsibility of Major General 'Amiram Levin. Baraq said he was not opposed to the setting up of a commission of inquiry to investigate the Ze'elim B

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accident, but said he did not think there was any need to do so.

Reacting to the Baraq interview, YEDI'OT AHARONOT editor Moshe Vardi said that Ehud Baraq is used to receiving positive coverage by the media and he finds it difficult to accept investigative reporting. Vardi also stated that Baraq refused to respond to requests by YEDI'OT AHARONOT for his reaction to the expose.

For his part, the former chief of staff said that he was never shown the expose and refused to respond to questions based on lies. [end recording]

Over the weekend, Prime Minister Rabin will meet with Ehud Baraq to discuss plans for him to join the government. In the Labor Party, there are calls on Baraq to do some more explaining before he is included in the cabinet.

New Armored Corps Commander Appointed

TA1307103795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jul 95 p 12

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brig-Gen. Doviq Tal, 42, was yesterday confirmed by Chief of the General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq as the new OC [Commanding Officer] Armored Corps, effective today. The appointment ends an unprecedented six-month period in which there was no OC Armored Corps, following the resignation early in the year of Brig.-Gen. Emmi Palant.

Convicted Officer Appointed Hebron Governor

TA1307055695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Civil Administration appointed as governor of Hebron, Lieutenant Colonel Barukh Nagar, convicted several years ago of attacking two Arabs in aggravating circumstances. Civil Administration officers told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the appointment is morally improper and wrong due to the sensitive situation in Hebron. The IDF spokesman said in response that Nagar was acquitted of behavior unbefitting an officer.

Court, Municipality Decrees Against Orient House

TA1207143495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The owners of Orient House in East Jerusalem have removed the trailer placed illegally in the building's courtyard.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that a Magistrate's Court judge yesterday issued an order banning any activity in Orient House, including the use of the property or manning it, in the wake of construction deviations there. If the owners fail to comply with the municipality decree or the court order, the municipality intends to lodge a criminal complaint against the owners.

Analysts: Signs Hamas Seeks Election Role

TA1207113195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a briefing to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Israeli security elements indicated that there are signs that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] aspires to get involved in the elections in the territories. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin Segal recording] The PLO and Hamas have been conducting negotiations recently on putting an end to attacks aimed against Israel. Israeli security elements reported this in a briefing to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Shin Bet and other Israeli analysts report that up to several weeks ago, Palestinian police in Gaza had taken action against Hamas attacks. In the last three weeks, however, there are signs that Hamas has stopped trying to carry out attacks, apparently as a result of talks with the PLO. The belief is that the heavy pressure exerted by 'Arafat on Hamas brought the latter's leadership to launch contacts toward political involvement in the election campaign in the territories. The report indicates that so far these are only initial signs, adding that the contacts could blow up and result in a resumption of the attempts to attack. [end recording]

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King, Yemen's Salih Hold Joint News Conference

JN1307184695 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jul 95

[Joint news conference by King Husayn and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 13 July—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Husayn] O brothers: With the greatest happiness, comfort, satisfaction, and jubilation, I once again welcome a genuine Arab man, a great leader of our Arab nation, and a friend and brother in his second homeland and amidst his people and brothers. I am welcoming him in my name and on behalf of all Jordanian men and women, on behalf of each and every member of our big close-knit family, and also on behalf of the government. I thank God for this meeting.

Our last meeting in Amman provided an opportunity in delicate and tough circumstances. That meeting enabled us to know the sentiments embedded within the Yemenis' hearts and consciences with regard to their eagerness to safeguard the unity of their great homeland. We trusted that the unity will be safeguarded. In our minds, we shared with our brothers the tough circumstances they experienced. It is an honor for us that we were always in favor of unity and in support of Yemen and in support of my brother leader. God be praised, Yemen, God willing, is on the road to a sweeping renaissance and a promising future, with God's help. It will occupy a special place in its greater Arab homeland. This was always the case in the past, and so it will be at present and in the future, God willing.

We were immensely pleased with the recent developments and the normalization of ties between the brothers in fraternal Yemen and the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This was made possible thanks to the sincere efforts that produced a useful meeting and a new start. This was good news that we experienced and felt. We wish our brothers success. We will help and support them as much as we can on both the bilateral level and within the context of our one Arab family, which we hope to see unify its stand and make a concerted effort to build a prosperous future for the Arab individual throughout the greater homeland and enable him or her to lead a dignified life, which he or she deserves wherever he or she lives.

On the bilateral level, our ties are, God be praised, excellent. We will extend every possible support and assistance as much as we can. We are brothers. I welcome my brother and his honorable delegation once again. I am sorry if my welcoming statement was lengthy. I would like to give my brother the opportunity to address you. In case you have any questions or comments, we together will answer these questions.

[Salih] My brother Your Majesty King Husayn, brother Jordanian leaders, and brother journalists: I am happy to make this visit in response to a generous invitation from my brother his majesty the king. I am happy that my visits to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan are repeated in order to meet a dear brother who, along with fraternal Jordan, supported Yemen's unity in difficult circumstances. That position has been greatly appreciated by all Yemenis.

Amman hosted the meeting in which the document of pledge and accord was signed under the auspices of his majesty the king. His majesty the king and the brother Jordanian leaders made efforts to preserve the Yemeni unity and solve the problems between the Yemenis through dialogue and peaceful means. We responded to that generous invitation extended by my brother his majesty the king. We came with all Yemeni political and party leaders to Jordan. Sisterly Jordan—leadership, government, and people—hosted the Yemeni leaders. The Yemenis and the brothers in the great Arab world were looking to that historic meeting after which the Yemenis had been meant to leave Jordan after achieving reconciliation. Regrettably, the Jordanian leadership, led by his majesty the king and the Jordanian people saw these events and the play that was carried out by the treacherous secessionists. Based on the history of their deep-rooted Yemeni people, the first homeland of the Arabs, they should not have caused harm to their homeland and their brothers. Nevertheless, the conspiracy began to surface soon after the signing of the document of pledge and accord in Jordan. The scenario of war and secession began. This scenario had been planned by the secessionists before coming to Amman. In response to a generous invitation by his majesty the king and in appreciation of the efforts and the love of this Arab leader for Arab unity and the desire to preserve the Yemeni unity, which is deep-rooted in Jordan—leader and people since the days of his father [sentence incomplete as heard]. However, the secessionists wanted to carry out that bad action. After leaving sisterly Jordan, the scenario of secession and war was started by the traitors, but your people in Yemen raised the slogan of "Unity or Death." All the Yemeni people with all their capabilities rallied behind the constitutional legitimacy. We lived difficult circumstances for 67 days in a fierce war, but the Yemeni people's will to maintain their unity triumphed with the support of all brothers in the Arab homeland, led by my brother King Husayn, the Jordanian people, and several Arab countries.

We highly appreciate that magnificent position that was adopted by Jordan during the darkest circumstances

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through which Yemen was passing. Thanks to my brother his majesty the king, and to the brothers in fraternal Jordan. We are ready to answer any question. Thank you, your majesty.

[Husayn] Thank you, sir.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the President, after his majesty the king's permission, I welcome you in Amman. You have always welcomed us in Sanaa. I also take this opportunity to congratulate you on the first anniversary of the consolidation of unity. Now that emotions have calmed down and that Yemen under your stable and wise leadership has managed to consolidate its unity, achieve regional reconciliation, and take advanced steps on this road, I would like to ask your excellency whether it is possible to restore national unity inside Yemen. Thank you your excellency the president.

[Salih] Thank you very much. In fact, our national unity is strong. This is a fact known by you and everybody else. If by national unity you mean those secessionist elements who are wanted by the law, this is something else. In Yemen, national unity exists and the government is doing its best to reconstruct what the war has destroyed. Regarding the leaders who committed follies beside the secessionist leaders during the battles in defense of the unity, a republican decree was issued pardoning those who were misled. They have returned home and have the right to take part in political life. They have returned home, except for those wanted by the law. Those live outside the homeland, in addition to other elements supporting them. All political forces are taking part in the political life, including the Yemeni Socialist Party, which is among the ranks of the opposition now. Other political parties are in Yemen and exercising all their political rights within the framework of the Constitution and law.

[Correspondent] His excellency the president and his majesty the king: Our region is currently witnessing intensive political activities to achieve Arab reconciliation, including your tour and visit to Jordan. Also there are reports of an expected visit by the Jordanian foreign minister to Saudi Arabia. Could you talk about the current situation? Is it possible to achieve Arab reconciliation and relaxation in the inter-Arab relations and Jordanian-Saudi relations at this phase? Thank you.

[Husayn] God willing, I believe, the foreign minister will visit sisterly Saudi Arabia. God willing, the results will be positive and good. I am confident and hopeful that it will be so. God willing, this will be a step toward building the relations on strong bases. This is what we hope and work for. Regarding the Arab world as a whole, we are advocates of unity, integration, and cooperation. This is necessitated by the logic of these days and the current circumstances. We seek to build trust and work for the sake of the coming generations. May God grant us success. I am confident that my brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's Arab tour will yield major positive results. I know that he shares with me the same hopes for our nation and its promising future.

[Salih] Actually, my visit is a response to an invitation to discuss the existing and distinguished relations and at the same time to exert all efforts with all brother Arab leaders to discuss the restoration of Arab solidarity, especially amid these circumstances, changes, and emerging world economic blocs, and search for a better life. At a time when the world is moving toward blocs, we are being fragmented. If we are today engaged in a peace process with Israel and hope that it will be successful, it is even more important that Arab solidarity be revived and that friction among Arab countries ends. It is more appropriate and better if we first clear the Arab atmosphere and discuss the restoration of Arab solidarity. Afterward, we can deal with those around us. I have sensed every understanding from the leaders of the countries that I visited, including Qatar and Syria, and from my brother his majesty the king. Tomorrow, I will be in Egypt. I have sensed every understanding from all the Arab leaders, who share common and heavy concerns. We need Arab solidarity to be revived and the atmosphere to be cleared. We need to transcend trivialities and the residues and negative effects of the Gulf war. We wish the Arab nation success.

[Correspondent] Mr. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, your current Arab tour coincides with two pressing issues in the Arab arena: The issue of peace and that of Arab reconciliation. Regarding Arab reconciliation and solidarity, there is information that you are mediating between Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The visit of the Jordanian foreign minister is a fruit of the Yemeni role in this regard. Is it also true that as part of your visit to Egypt, you will mediate between Egypt and Sudan in light of the escalating tension between them? What is the latest information you have about the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli peace track, since you are the last Arab leader to hold talks with the Syrian president today in Damascus? Thank you.

[Salih] Thank you very much. As a matter of fact, I am not mediating between the brothers in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I was in Saudi Arabia a month ago, and the custodian of the two holy mosques and I had a discussion. He brought up the subject and said that relations must be restored between the Arab countries, and especially the brothers in Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. So I told my brother, His Majesty King Husayn, about this.

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Bilateral contacts are under way between them. There is no need for mediation and we are not doing that. The best thing is direct contact, that is, every Arab leader should contact the other and the estrangement and the false barriers should end. Regarding Sudan and Egypt, I am going to Egypt not to mediate. However, as part of the joint Arab action and Arab concerns, we will discuss this issue, but it is not mediation. It is a matter that concerns Jordan, Yemen, and all Arab countries.

[Correspondent] Talking about the importance of inter-Arab ties and solidarity, what about lifting the embargo on fraternal Iraq?

[Husayn] Regarding fraternal Iraq, we are all living the suffering of the Iraqi Arab fraternal people. We think the suffering must end as soon as possible. We are doing all we can to achieve this. This is because this people should not bear more than what they have borne so far. God willing, this dark night will end and Iraq will return to assume its role and place in the Arab homeland and the world. God willing, under the atmosphere we are living in this region and the positive approaches toward peace and the promising future for everybody, Iraq will be a part of this march. God willing, the results will be good soon.

[Correspondent, in English] Your Majesty: Jordan has always played the role of the mediator in solving the inter-Arab conflicts, is there any Jordanian initiative towards solving the conflict between Sudan and Egypt, especially after the visit of the Sudanese minister to Jordan?

[Husayn, in English] (?We haven't done) anything yet in that regard. We're very happy to learn the wonderful news that President Mubarak escaped the cowardly, dastardly attack on himself in Addis Ababa. But we hope that the atmosphere will remain that of cordiality between all the Arab states and that the perpetrators will be known as a result of the ongoing investigations, and their connections will be totally exposed, and I think that we have all suffered from terrorism, so called, and we are all adamantly against terror and terrorists wherever they are, whatever their (?origins). This is not the kind of behavior that can be accepted by us or by any decent human being in this world. So we hope that the atmosphere will be a warmer, brighter one in the future between all Arab states. I think that there is nothing that [words indistinct] I personally may seek the first opportunity to visit Egypt and to congratulate the president myself for his escape, and I do hope that (?present) wisdom will always prevail and we will try always to overcome all the elements of tragedy [word indistinct] in this part of the world. And I am totally committed to that.

Al-Kabariti on Peace Process, Arab Relations

JN1307171995 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 10-16 Jul 95 pp 28-29

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by Qasim Muhammad Ja'far in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ja'far] How do you assess the current stage of the Jordanian-Israeli peace?

[Al-Kabariti] We consider what has been realized so far as a great breakthrough, much more than what had been expected in such a short period of time. If we take into consideration the deep hostility and the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its bloody nature for more than 50 years, then what has been realized in the Jordanian-Israeli relations so far can stand, in our view, as an example and model for relations between Israel and Arab countries during the stage of moving from peace making to peace building and implementation, and all parties in the region feeling the benefits of peace.

[Ja'far] But there is opposition in Jordan to this peace and to the resulting normalization.

[Al-Kabariti] Yes, there is opposition in Jordan the same as there is opposition to peace in Israel. We view the opposition as a healthy phenomenon. It is natural to have supporters and opponents in a democratic and pluralistic society, but I do not believe this opposition constitutes a serious obstacle to peace. We can say that the Jordanian society is divided into three main groups. There is the minority that opposes peace with Israel from a principled point of view. On the other hand, there is another minority that is enthusiastic about peace and that supports it without reservation. Between these two groups, there is the majority that supports peace reasonably and calmly based on its view of the homeland's interests and future. In my view, this majority constitutes the political and popular base of the Jordanian position toward peace process and relations with Israel.

[Ja'far] Some people my accuse the Jordanian Government of expediting normalization by adding a sort of extra warmth to the relations with Israel. What is your answer?

[Al-Kabariti] In our view the main barrier between Israel and the Arabs is a psychological one, and that other issues will become mere technicalities and details when agreement is reached on the general principles of peace and coexistence. There are always two ways to remove the psychological barriers. Either the gradual and slow way, or using the shock approach to overcome these barriers. We in Jordan chose the shock approach

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for reasons which we consider to be sound. Yes, there might be haste by Jordan. However, this is based on objective and practical reasons related to Jordanian peculiarities, which are linked to the national and strategic security of the country. When matters are related to the Jordanian strategy, it is a firm principle that the homeland's interests will always be the top priority. Jordan believed that its interest was in the peace option. Therefore, it adopted that option and began to implement it without hesitation or delay. From the very beginning, our option in Jordan was true and real peace and not cold peace. This is specifically what we are seeking to realize.

[Ja'far] What you are saying reflects deep satisfaction with the general course of the settlement process and the future of peace in the region. Is this conclusion in place?

[Al-Kabariti] Yes. We are quite satisfied with the general course of matters. What has been achieved so far cannot be overstated. Indeed, we faced occasional obstacles and problems, most notable among which was the Israeli Government's decision to confiscate Arab lands in Jerusalem. However, the way that crisis was handled, the Israeli Government's rescinding of that decision, and the genuine desire to arrive at positive results on the various tracks of the peace process are indications of the seriousness of the current efforts and that peace has become a general strategy for all parties. This calls for satisfaction. Still, it is a rational and quiet satisfaction taking into consideration the difficulties still lying ahead and which must emerge now then. However, generally speaking, we are convinced that the peace process will arrive at its last station and achieve its objectives.

[Ja'far] Is there a similar satisfaction with Jordan's Arab relations, especially with the states with which relations became lukewarm and strained during the Gulf war?

[Al-Kabariti] I can most sincerely say that we in Jordan have gone beyond the critical stage witnessed by our relations with some Arab brothers, especially in the Gulf as a result of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Jordan is and will remain Arab with all its heart and soul. This is our option and destiny. The Arabs are our true support. We aim for nothing but Arab interest. We believe that our current relations with our brothers have improved. Our commitment to the Arab strategy, pan-Arab security, and the supreme Arab interest is a constant principle in our policy. This is evident all the time. I would like to point in particular to our relations with Saudi Arabia. I can safely say that these relations have been witnessing more than relaxation. We in Jordan always express our profound thanks and appreciation for the care enjoyed by Jordanian citizens in Saudi Arabia. Their interests have not been harassed during the critical stage experienced by the relations between the two sisterly countries.

On the contrary, there is an increase in the volume of economic and trade cooperation and in the number of Saudi brothers who come to Jordan for visits or residence.

Meeting With Kuwait To Restore Relations Revealed

JN1307114495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Jul 95 pp 1, 26

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — QUDS PRESS — A ranking Foreign Ministry official yesterday revealed that Jordanian and Kuwaiti officials held meetings in Amman in order to restore bilateral relations to normal.

The official, who preferred to remain anonymous, told QUDS PRESS that Jordanian and Kuwaiti officials recently held contacts on more than one level. He noted that Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Amman held four meetings in the past few months, adding that other Jordanian officials met with their Kuwaiti counterparts on the sidelines of Arab and international conferences.

Official Jordanian sources said that Jordan will reopen its Embassy in Kuwait within two months. The Jordanian sources believe that a scheduled visit for the foreign minister to Riyadh will contribute to resuming and developing Jordanian-Saudi relations and will give a push toward improving Jordanian-Gulf relations.

The Jordanian official said that the restoration of Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations is on the agenda of Jordanian political action, noting the need to contain these differences in order to restore inter-Arab relations. The Jordanian official said that Jordanian diplomatic representation in Kuwait will be at a high level.

Australian, Swazi Foreign Ministers Arrive

JN1407060295 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Solomon Dlamini, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland in Africa, arrived in Amman this evening on an official visit to Jordan that will last for several days. He will deliver a written message to His Majesty King Husayn from His Majesty King Mswati III of Swaziland.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans also arrived in Amman on a short visit to Jordan within a tour of the region that will take him to Syria, Lebanon, Tunisia,

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the Palestinian self-rule area, and Israel. The Australian minister will discuss with Jordanian officials the peace process in the region, areas of bilateral cooperation, relations between the two countries, and significant trade and economic issues.

Columnist Defends Iraq, Blames U.S. for Embargo

JN1307195995 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Jul 95 p 18

["Arab Opinion" column by Mahmud al-Rimawi: "The Right to Life"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As usual, the Security Council has renewed the sanctions imposed on Iraq and the Americans played a leading role in this regard.

The pretext this time was that Baghdad has verbally admitted the production of biological weapons, which led to maintaining the embargo instead of lifting it. Washington says that Baghdad had denied this before, and now it is admitting it.

Well, what is then required? Is it to continue to deny, or to cooperate as was the case with the last mission of the UN envoy? As far as Washington is concerned, what is required is for Baghdad to continue to cooperate, and for Washington to continue to impose an embargo, something which is not right and contradictory, to say the least. It is illogical that the result be the same whether Baghdad cooperates or not. Otherwise, the international envoy's mission will become meaningless. Even international resolutions against Iraq will become meaningless and pointless, although the original objective of these resolutions was not the imposition of sanctions merely for their own sake. Their purpose was to eliminate the consequences of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, to facilitate Iraq's return to the international community, and to lift the embargo imposed on its people. Yet the embargo has led to results totally different from what was originally targeted. Most important is that it threatened the lives of the Iraqi people and set them several centuries backward in a manner unprecedented throughout the history of international relations.

It has become familiar to say that Baghdad is required to fulfill all its obligations. Doesn't this mean that the international community should start to honor its obligations as well, whether in observance of the well-known political considerations and criteria, or for basic human reasons. No one has the right to place an entire people on the road to extermination.

The United States as well as other countries can adopt whatever policies they choose toward any country, including Iraq, according to the rules of sovereignty. However, pushing the whole international community to indefinitely punish an entire people under pretexts and circumstances that have undergone many changes over the past five years, is a totally different story.

'Traditional' Leaders Dominate Municipal Elections

JN1307162895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Jul 95 pp 1, 7

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'idah al-Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Traditional community leaders emerged as the dominant force in the Kingdom's local administration in Tuesday's [11 July] municipal elections with fragmented competition from the Islamists and a very poor turnout in the capital.

The first nationwide municipal elections also produced two women mayors, marking the first time women taking the helm of local administration in the history of the Kingdom.

Final results showed that Islamists won the mayorship of the councils of Madaba, al-Karak and Irbid, but lost in al-Zarqa' and al-'Aqabah.

According to source close to the Islamists, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party relied on tribal affiliations for success in most constituencies in fielded candidates. Except for al-Zarqa', al-Rusayfah and Irbid, the party did not publicly release the names of its candidates.

The Islamists, who withdrew from al-Zarqa' and al-Rusayfah last night in protest against what they described as the "government's continuous interferences in the election procedures," boycotted the Lower House of Parliament's session on Wednesday.

In a statement sent to Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur, IAF deputies said their decision to boycott the session comes as a protest to the "government's lack of respect to the people's representatives."

"There has been a series of violations on public liberties," Deputy Bassam al-'Umush said. "We will use all means possible to put an end to these malpractices."

Dr. al-'Umush said the House should shoulder the responsibility for what he described as the continuous violations of public liberties and human rights. He said Mr. al-Surur has to take a stand on this issue.

"Any deputy who want to meet with the government has all the right to do so," said Mr. al-Surur. "But the House's presidency is not the concerned party to make reconciliation between a deputy and the government."

He said the front's letter to the House was only aimed at informing the presidency of the decision taken by the

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16-member bloc. But it did not include any demand for further action from the House.

The head of a delegation from the U.S. National Democratic Institute (NDI) Olga Milosavlegevic, who is currently in Jordan to observe the municipal elections, refrained from commenting on the election procedures. The nine-member delegation that she is leading will be issuing a report soon on the general situaiton of elections in the Kingdom, she said.

Ms. Milosavlegevic, NDI's programme officer for the Middle East region, said the report will be referred to the concerned authorities in the United States as well as in Jordan. She is heading a team from Yemen, Lebanon and Bulgaria.

The team visited Madaba and al-Zarqa' governorates and Municipalities during the two-day elections.

On Wednesday, voting resumed in al-Rusayfah as well as 13 of the 20 poling districts in Amman since the minimum legally required percentage of 51 was not achieved on Tuesday. The final turnout was still poor, ranging between 33 and 63 per cent.

Only 20 seats of the 40 seats are contested in Amman. The mayor and 20 other members will be appointed by the government.

Leftist parties claimed victory for council members in several municipal councils but no names were released. Five leftist parties contested the elections; the Communist Party, the Democratic Popular Party, the Progressive Ba'thist Party and the Democratic Front.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Jordanians voted for 231 councils out of the 259 since 28 councils and their mayors were elected last week by acclamation. Official figures showed 789,274 voters had registered to vote.

Results of the elections for the councils mayorship in the Kingdom's principal cities are as follows:

—Al-Zarqa': Mustafa al-Fayyad (18,893)
—Irbid: 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Tall, (6,578)
—Madaba: Mahmud Abu-Qaddurah (5,883)
—'Ajlun: Muhammad al-Samadi (861)
—al-'Aqabah: Riyad al-Hilu (3,746)
—al- Karak: Ahmad Mahadin (2,194)
—al-Tafilah: Ahmad al-Qar'an (2,586)
—al-Salt: Hani Khuraysat (2,888)
—al-Mafraq: 'Atallah al-'Umush (2,994)

The two women mayors were Iman Futaymat in Khirbat al-Wahadinah in 'Ajlun and Hayat Maqbul in al-Hashimiyah in Ma'an.

[Begin box] Amman Election Results:

Final results Wednesday evening showed that two IAF candidates lost and three won out of seven Islamist candidates for the 20 Amman seats.

The names of the new Amman council members are: Nidal Barjas al-Hadid, 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Biqa'i, Amjad Gharib al-Bakri, Ayyub Khamis (IAF), Ratib al-Kuz, Khalaf al-Baraysah, Khalil Husayn 'Atiyah, Musa al-Wahsh (IAF), Salih Hamlan, Saleh al-Ghazzawi (IAF), Muhammad Irtaymih, Khalil al-Hayarnah, 'Azzam al-Maghariz, 'Uthman al-Shishani, 'Abd-al-Hamid al-'Adwan, Muhammad al-Qawaqinah, 'Umar al-Lawzi, Muhammad Abu-Hudayb, Ahmad Falah al-Mulayti, and Mawlud Subar. [end box]

Centrist Bloc Wins All Seats

JN1307181095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Jul 95 pp 1, 7

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Beatrix Immenkamp]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Zarqa'—A centrist pro-establishment coalition swept al-Zarqa's municipal elections, ending a decade of Islamist control of Jordan's second largest city. The National Bloc took all of the council's 10 seats, including the mayorship.

The bloc won the election after its main competitor, the Islamic Bloc, withdrew from the polls in protest against alleged government interference in the elections.

The Islamic Bloc, which included five candidates running on the ticket of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), abandoned the elections three and a half hours before the closure of the ballot boxes claiming that the government had worked to boost its opponents.

The governor of al-Zarqa', Muslih al-Tarawinah, rejected the Islamic Bloc's move on grounds of illegality, with a governorate spokesman saying all votes were counted, and results showed that the National Bloc won twice as many votes as the Islamic Bloc.

The Islamic Bloc charged that thousands of soldiers clad in civilian clothes were brought to al-Zarqa' to cast their votes in favour of the National Bloc, headed by Mustafa al-Fayyad.

Islamists said that the soldiers were not residents of al-Zarqa', but of cities as far away as Irbid and al-Karak. Eyewitnesses told the JORDAN TIMES they had noticed a large number of apparently illiterate young men asking election officials to fill in their ballot slips with the names of the candidates of the National Bloc.

Other IAF allegations included claims that individual voters had been allowed to cast more than one vote,

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that government officials were distributing ballot papers freely outside polling centres, without reference to voter lists. They also claimed that police had taken into custody 200 drivers of buses and cars who were found transporting Islamist supporters to the polling station. The vehicles impounded bore posters of Islamic Bloc candidates.

The government categorically rejected the Islamists' claims, expressing regret about continuous statements by IAF leaders in the past few weeks accusing the government of interfering in the municipal elections on behalf of the IAF's opponents.

The new al-Zarqa' council includes three independent members from the Bani-Hasan Tribe, which is traditionally the biggest voting bloc in the city, four independent members of Palestinian origin, one Christian member from the left, a leftist who is originally from al-Karak and an independent candidate who hails form an Irbid family. The bloc did not include a representative of the Circasian or Chechen community in al-Zarqa'. Only one contender had been member of the previous city council.

Mr. al-Fayyad, the new mayor received 18,893 votes, Muhammad Musa al-Ghuwayri, a member of the previous council, received 17,716 votes, Dyifallah al-Qallab al-'Umush 16,436, 'Akif al-Ma'aytah 15,093, Muhammad Hasan al-Zawahirah 15,125, Mustafa al-Majdalawi 14,924, Sultan Mahmud Mahadin 14,366 votes, Jihad Jarrar 14,288, Yunus al-Dawaymah 14,056 and Muhammad al-Qusus 12,886.

The highest votes among the Islamist Bloc went to former Mayor Shaykh Yasir al-'Umari, who received 8,763 votes.

Speaking to the JORDAN TIMES after the announcement of the results, a member of the National Bloc, Muhammad al-Ghuwayri, said the Islamists' rejection of their victory will not influence the bloc's determination to push through with its programme.

The programme has the support of al-Zarqa' residents, he said, questioning the motivations behind the Islamists' 11th hour decision to quit the polls.

"We have a programme and we are ready to implement it," he said.

Al-Zarqa' is known to suffer from numerous organisational and infrastructural problems. Its municipal council is one of the few in the Kingdom which is not plagued by debts. The population of the city tangibly increased after many of the returnees from the Gulf settled in it due to its proximity to the capital and the relatively lower cost of living. But the influx of such a huge number of people to the city in the last few years increased demand on the already overburdened infrastructure of al-Zarqa', aggravating the existing problems of congestion, water and telephone line shortages.

IAF Wins Only 5 %

JN1307202695 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 13 Jul 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Centerists, tribalists, and independents gained the majority of votes in Jordan's first nationwide municipal elections.

Women contenders made large gains considering it was their first time ever to join the municipal race. A 27-year old from al-Wahadinah became the first woman mayor ever in the rural town and in Jordan. Nine other women became council members in various municipalities across the kingdom.

The Islamic Action Front [IAF], which according to sources hoped to gain 20 percent of total council seats, only managed to win five percent.

The IAF lost in its traditional stronghold of al-Zarqa', but won eight heads of councils, including al-Karak, Ma'daba, and Irbid.

The IAF today said it was considering all means to prove government wrongdoing it claims took place in al-Zarqa'. The government has denied IAF charges and said it regrets the group's continuous accusations, adding that the IAF could take its case to court as allowed by the law.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Nadir al-Zuhayrat reiterated that election procedures were fair and free, and that all necessary measures had been taken to ensure a smooth process.

Al-Zuhayrat, speaking during a press conference today, said municipal councils are independent government institutions that have the authority to work freely regardless of the members' political affiliations. He said that final election results showed that on average, over 50 percent of the 800,000 voters who registered cast their ballots. He said citizens voted for a total of 214 councils and 229 mayors as 45 other councils and mayors were voted by acclamation bringing the total to 259.

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Hizballah Introduces Structural Changes

NC1307152795 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 13 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Ibrahim al-Amin]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Hizballah" ended its general conference a few days ago by making several decisions, the most prominent of which were expected and concerned the reelection of the current political leadership under Hasan Nasrallah and a group of men of religion, politicians, and military leaders who achieved various gains for the party during the past four years. These gains were manifested by the strong entry into parliament, the expansion of the official political and popular presence, greater recognition of the party in various Lebanese circles, in addition to an amazing development in the position of the "Islamic Resistance" in the south and the rise in its status, turning it and the party into a formidable figure in the regional and international political formula.

Developments in the party, which was officially established in 1985, have been structural and organizational changes [words indistinct] connected with developments inside the party, some of which were the result of experience and others the result of increased growth in its ranks. They were also connected with general developments in the country and events in which the party was involved. These steps are gradually leading the party toward being a direct part of the overall general public situation.

Since its establishment the party has kept its internal affairs out of the public eye. This makes it difficult for specialized security organs and circles to pursue this movement or monitor it regularly. The reason is the party has been directly targeted by Israel, which draws up one plan after the other to get at it or to hit it where it hurts. Thus the details of the party's accurate structural organization remain unknown so too are the dates for its general and branch meetings and the real distribution of posts, tasks, and names.

According to information available about the conference, the party's branches and various bases, in the two months that preceded the conference, prepared their proposals and views of the new status of the party. These were submitted to the special committee formed by the Shura Council, the highest authority in the party, to prepare for the conference. Some changes at the organizational level then took place and these were followed by the call to the general electoral body, which comprises the party's cadres, some of whom become members of this body as soon as they are given specific posts. Others are elected according to a different system.

The most prominent changes made by the party were:

The Political Bureau was turned into a Political Council that includes officials from some major sectors and officials in charge of the party's units in the areas. The party's foreign relations department, which is in charge of contacts with embassies and expatriates, and the media department, which includes the central information unit, radio and television stations, and newspaper, were added to it. The Council was given additional tasks, some of which are of a directly executive nature [words indistinct] and political contacts after being ratified by the Shura Council.

The establishments, security and military bureaus, and the chambers connected with the Islamic Resistance operations have been merged into a new committee named the Jihad Council. Hashim Safiyy-al-Din, who held the post of chief of the Shura Council for the south, has been appointed head of the Jihad Council. He is the only new member in the decisionmaking Shura Council.

The Shura Council tasked with implementation in the Executive Council has been replaced without any real changes in its tasks and powers other than those that may be affected by the new status of the Political Bureau, which has become the Political Council.

A new committee has been formed to accommodate the Hizballah members in the Chamber of Deputies. This has been decided in light of the election of Hizballah members to the Chamber of Deputies. This committee is called the Parliamentary Bloc. It is connected with the Political Council regarding participation in working out the decisions that are submitted to the Shura Council for ratification or rejection. Thus it is no longer necessary for a deputy to be an original member in the basic decisionmaking committees. At the same time the importance of a deputy's position and political and representative stature is not ignored if the political position of such a deputy in Hizballah is less significant [words indistinct]. It includes Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, his deputy, Shaykh Na'im Qasim, Hashim Safiyy-al-Din, Deputy Muhammad Ra'd, chairman of the Political Council, Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik, representative of Imam Khamene'i in al-Biqa', 'Abdallah Qasir, and al-Hajj Husayn Khalil, who has been named assistant and political adviser to the Hizballah secretary general. He was previously the chairman of the Hizballah Political Bureau.

It is understood that the new position held by al-Hajj Khalil was created in accordance with a decision to enhance Hizballah's political presence throughout Lebanon. Al-Hajj Khalil's special capabilities and extensive experience in this sphere were considered. He was exempted from other tasks so as to devote himself

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to the task directly linked with the Hizballah secretary general.

The sequence of information makes it clear that the word Bureau is being replaced by Council because Hizballah is unlike other parties in which the political bureau constitutes the highest decisionmaking authority. The Shura Council occupies this position and the Shura Council members alone are elected by the general committee. The other members are appointed by subsequent decisions. This cycle of change will continue, as there will be various formations in the various sectors.

According to this mechanism, the basic nomination process will take place during the election of the Shura Council. Some well known Hizballah leaders have run for the elections but failed to win enough votes to become members of the Shura Council. Prominent Hizballah figures say this is normal and reflects democracy, but it cannot be completely revealed for reasons connected with Hizballah. Confining elections to one constituency does not give the decisionmaking Shura Council a free hand, because the organizational formations precede the Shura Council election process so that the members may not influence this process.

A prominent source in the party says the party's state is "very solid" and that occasional reports about the existence of particular currents within the party do not necessarily reflect the reality.

Asked about the rights of party members who now hold or used to hold leading positions to speak up and make statements, the source said: "It is impermissible to gag mouths"; this is both unsound and impossible. Accordingly, what some individuals say does not necessarily express the party line. The country, with its various forces, knows where to obtain the decisive opinion and who is in a position to reflect decisions, and there is a serious commitment by officials and various elements to the decisions made by the central command. But this does not preclude some clergymen or individuals, who do not hold key or leading positions in the party, coming out and stating various opinions that are not binding to the party. If some cross the boundaries or exceed what is agreed upon, there is a system to check and investigate the issue.

Regarding the status of the military sector and the "resistance group," the prominent source notes that the politicization that governs every aspect of the party prevents the establishment of permanent groups the opinion of which must be sought on an issue simply because they reflect a particular sector. It is impermissible to reach such a stage, which would be tacit approval of splits within the party. Nobody in the party possesses a "veto" right over any of the issues under debate. There is a leading sector that makes decisions and follows up on implementation. No sector is more privileged than another.

The source was then asked about religious authority [al-marji'iyah al-diniyah], the definition of "shari'ah orders," the controversy over the status of al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, who is outside the organizational framework, and the position on the disagreement on the source of religious authority, which some believe should be combined with the political authority based in Iran. The party does not hide the fact that [words indistinct]. The prominent Hizballah source says the political leadership of the party, as in most Islamic forces, operates on the basis of shari'ah, according to the orders given to this leadership by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the guardian of the Muslims cause. This leadership is subject to no dispute. If there are some opinions about the authority, they have not reached the point of disagreement. The party gives all its elements the freedom to follow any religious authority. This custom provides solutions to issues concerning religious rites and their origins and private and public daily transactions. It has nothing to do with political issues, which are left to the political leadership.

The source does not believe there are points of dispute so big that they would cause polarization, although some might like to say that within Hizballah there are currents that are affiliated with Iran and others that are affiliated with other quarters.

Al-Hirawi on Syrian Presence, Personal Liberties

NC1307173495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi announced today that the reasons why Syrian presence in Lebanon is required have not yet ended. He explained that this presence is designed to confront the challenges in Lebanon and to secure full and simultaneous Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon and the Golan Heights.

Speaking before a delegation of Australians of Lebanese descent, al-Hirawi said complete coordination between Syrian and Lebanese leaders on peace in the Middle East was important. He added that Lebanon will not be the victim of Middle East peace.

Commenting on Lebanese opposition figures living abroad, President al-Hirawi pointed out that Raymond Iddih lives in Paris as a matter of personal choice, Former President Amin al-Jumayyil prefers not to return to Lebanon, and General Michel 'Awn elected himself to exile.

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Concerning judicial matters, the president only said Israel activates some people in Lebanon by remote control.

He discussed the era of civil war, its implications, and its influencing factors, particularly the Israeli factor. He said Israel sought to ruin the Lebanese economy. He stated that the war in Lebanon was not a sectarian or civil conflict but a war of foreigners on Lebanese territory.

President al-Hirawi declared that Lebanon is a democratic, parliamentary country that respects public and personal liberties, particularly freedom of the press. He said everyone is free to participate in political activity, adding that this is proven by the opposition figures who freely express their anti-government views.

Asked if Lebanese expatriates can vote in Lebanese elections, President al-Hirawi replied that this will be possible when the Lebanese political system becomes a presidential one.

The Lebanese-Australian delegation will meet this evening with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and tomorrow morning with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri.

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Ross, al-Shar' Discuss U.S. Efforts on Security

JN1307174095 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 13 Jul (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process.

The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the negotiating delegation, and Walid al-Mu'allim, Syria's ambassador to the United States. On the U.S. side, the meeting was attended by Mark Parris, the U.S. President's special assistant and director of the Near East and South Asia Affairs at the U.S. National Security Council, and Aaron Miller, deputy coordinator to the Middle East peace process.

The two sides completed discussion of the issues which were presented during the previous meetings. The talks also dealt with the efforts, which the United States will continue to make in its capacity as the sponsor of the peace process, to help achieve progress in the area of security arrangements in light of the agreement that had earlier been reached regarding these arrangements.

Al-Shar' Comments on Talks

NC1307191095 London MBC Television in Arabic 1820 GMT 13 Jul 95

[Report by Salwa Sabri in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an unexpected step, U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross returned to the Syrian capital today to continue his efforts to secure an agreement on the date and agenda of the upcoming round of Syrian-Israeli military talks. Ross held two rounds of talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. During the break between the two sessions, Ross told reporters via telephone that the talks were continuing.

In an exclusive interview with MBC, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' stated that the United States will continue its efforts to reach an agreement on the security arrangements. He added:

[Begin recording] [al-Shar'] The talks held with Mr. Ross were serious and constructive. During these talks, we continued discussing the subjects that were discussed over the past two days in Damascus. We concluded that the United States, as a cosponsor of the peace process, will continue its efforts on the question of the security arrangements according to the framework of understanding concluded earlier.

[Sabri] Did you set a date for resuming the military talks?

[Al-Shar'] So far, there is no specific arrangement. The date the two ambassadors will meet will be announced later.

[Sabri] Will General al-Shihabi take part in these meetings?

[Al-Shar'] No, there is no plan now for Gen. al-Shihabi to take part. [end recording]

The Syrian minister's remarks could mean that a specific agreement on the date and agenda of the Syrian-Israeli military talks is yet to be reached. Moreover, it could mean that many important obstacles continue to obstruct the road to that end, something that increases the likelihood that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher may return once again to the region to overcome these obstacles.

Ross, Delegation Depart

JN1307173795 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 13 Jul (SANA)—Dennis Ross, U.S. special Middle East coordinator, and his delegation left Damascus this evening after a brief visit.

Ross was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim, the U.S. charge d'affaires in Damascus, and U.S. Embassy staff.

Papers Discuss Ross' Tour

JN1407074895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Jul 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial today, AL-BA'TH discusses the tour by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process.

The paper says: Soon after Ross started his tour in the region and until now, statements have been emanating from Israeli officials about the nature of the U.S. coordinator's tour. Some of these statements include details of his talks, while others were mere conclusions or assumptions. AL-BA'TH adds: In all cases, the Israeli officials' emphasis on what they call the details constituted some kind of a propaganda campaign whose aim is — as is customary for the Israeli propaganda machine — to blame Syria for the stumbling of the peace efforts, and to raise, and link the issue of the Lebanese national resistance to these efforts.

The paper believes that no matter how hard the Israeli propaganda machine tries to go into details, it cannot

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convince anyone of its claims. This is because the clarity of the Syrian position since the start of the peace process is not open for any interpretation and cannot be influenced by any propaganda distortion.

AL-BA'TH notes that since the Washington military talks, Israel has been trying to place emphasis on the early-warning stations and has continued in its attempt as if the entire peace process depends on that. Taking into account what Syria has stated in this regard — whether the categorical rejection of any Israeli presence on a single inch of the homeland's soil, or the irrefutable evidence on the insignificance of such stations in view of the advancements in the technological machine in our current era — boosting the peace process requires, first and foremost, a declared Israeli commitment to complete withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borderlines.

AL-BA'TH concludes its editorial by saying: Israel's attempt to return the ball will definitely fail. This is because there is a large gap between our declared clear positions and their ambiguous, mysterious positions, which neglect all requirements of the just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH also discusses the tour of the U.S. coordinator of the peace process. It notes that before and during these U.S. diplomatic moves, Israel, as usual, embarked on a serious escalation of conditions and extensive attacks against scores of villages and areas in southern Lebanon. At the same time, Israeli naval boats ad frigates continued to impose a piratical siege on southern Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH notes that Israel has not offered anything new to facilitate the U.S. envoy's mission and secure the necessary impetus to achieve a serious breakthrough on the Syrian track. Its old-new statements are without credibility and inapplicable and fully contradict its actions, which are a flagrant example of piracy and state terrorism.

The paper adds: We still attach a great importance on the U.S. efforts to adjust and correct the peace process, and make the Madrid Conference terms of reference and the resolutions of international legitimacy the binding basis for all parties without exception in a manner that will guarantee the total liberation of the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon and Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borderlines. Equally, checking Israel's aggressiveness and ending its occupation of the Arab territory must remain a top priority for the U.S. sponsor.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Syria will not allow Israel to reap gains from any kind, except the gain of the just peace. Syria's full sovereignty over its territory is inevitable and indisputable. Any security arrangements that are not based on balance [tawazun], equitability [takafu'], and equality [al-musawah], are an impossible thing to achieve and a Syrian taboo.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH stresses that Syria cannot accept anything short of full sovereignty over the Golan Heights. This is an unquestionable matter and Syria cannot relinquish any of its principles in this regard. The paper says: This position is understood by everyone, including the U.S. sponsor.

The paper urges the world community, particularly the United States in its capacity as the peace process sponsor, to take a decisive stand to press Israel into yielding to the will of peace and stop blocking its efforts.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says: The bases for peace are clear and are based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the U.S. initiative. There is nothing now to make one hesitate in taking such a position, especially after Israel has squandered four years of intensive efforts to achieve peace without showing any readiness to accept these bases. Undoubtedly, addressing the basic issues of the peace process will boost this process toward its goal of establishing a just and comprehensive peace.

Commentary Rejects Israeli Presence on Golan

JN1307141095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 13 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: Some Israeli officials have made interesting statements on the nature and identity of the Golan. In these statements, they declared that the Golan is Syrian territory, that the Israeli troops stationed on the Golan are deployed on Syrian territory, and that retaining control over the Golan will not help achieve peace.

Given this acknowledgement of these historical, geographic, and demographic facts by Israeli officials, why have they failed to take the necessary step, which is a prerequisite for the achievement of peace; namely, the issuance of a clear Israeli pronouncement, using specific and accurate terms, saying that Israel subscribes to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, which provide for complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories back to the 4 June 1967 borders? This is the very step Israel needs to take in order to remove the barriers and obstacles standing in the way of peace.

Such an Israeli step would reciprocate the Syrian eagerness to achieve just peace, which has been epitomized by providing all possible facilities to render the peace

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process a success and salvage it from the many predicaments it has suffered. Moreover, Syria has demonstrated this eagerness by its favorable response to all the efforts made to achieve peace, particularly the efforts made by the U.S. cosponsor of the peace process. The current mission of Dennis Ross, U.S. special Middle East coordinator, is part of these U.S. peace efforts. This mission is important, particularly since it comes on the heels of the talks held on security arrangements in Washington by the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff.

It goes without saying that security arrangements will take on a genuine significance when the indispensable step to achieve peace is taken. With this step, we mean complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories. In other words, security arrangements cannot stand on their own. They cannot be viewed separately from complete Israeli withdrawal. This is because security arrangements must promote peace and provide guarantees to ensure that it holds. That is, security arrangements cannot be put in place before peace is achieved.

Given all this, it is difficult and even impossible to understand the statements made by some Israeli officials to the effect that security arrangements are separate from the other components of the peace process. Security arrangements and other components of the peace process are inescapably intertwined. As far as ground rules and implementation are concerned, we would like to say that security arrangements must be balanced [mutawazinatan], equal [mutasawiyatan], and equitable [mutakaf'iatan] on both sides of the borders. According to these security arrangements, there should be no Israeli presence whatsoever on Syrian territory under any name and regardless of how small this territory is [wa annahu laysa fi hadhihi al-tartibat al-amniyah ayyi wujud isra'ili 'ala al-ard al-suriyah tahta ayyati tasmiyah wa mahma takun misahat hadhihi al-ard mina al-sighar]. This is because the presence of the occupation troops on part of the Golan is tantamount to their presence on the whole of the occupied Golan [li anna wujud al-ihtilal 'ala juz'in min al-jawlan ka wujudihi 'ala kulli al-jawlan al-muhtall].

The world community has realized that the fundamentally basic Syrian constant with regard to the peace process concerns the restoration of the whole of the occupied Golan.

The history of world nations has shown that the guarantee for peace is having strong convictions about peace, and not only peace agreements. Moreover, the guarantee for peace and for its continuation is the fairness of the peace deal that could be worked out. This is more important than barbed wires, mine fields, guard posts, observation posts, and early-warning stations.

Fairness is the soul of peace, and the key to peace. A fair approach would ensure the rapid achievement of peace. Fairness and justice here are tantamount to complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories.

Yemen's Salih Meets With al-Asad, Departs

JN1307153395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih resumed their talks in a closed meeting they held at Tishrin Palace this morning. This was followed by an expanded meeting. The Syrian side to the expanded talks included Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Presidential Affairs Minister Wahib Fadil; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Ali Khalil, minister of labor and social affairs; Agriculture Minister As'ad Mustafa; Nabil al-Mallah, minister of state for People's Assembly affairs; and Yusuf Jum'ah, Syrian charge d'affaires in Sanaa. The Yemeni side to the expanded talks included the delegation accompanying President Salih.

During the two meetings, the two presidents continued discussion of the topics they addressed in their talks yesterday, Wednesday; namely, current Arab developments, the Middle East peace process, and bilateral ties.

Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih left Damascus at 1245 today following a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad led those who saw him off at Damascus International Airport.

In a predeparture statement, President Salih said: Our talks with the brother officials in fraternal Syria led by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad were constructive and successful; and we believe that this will contribute to an enhanced relationship between our two fraternal countries, and also to enhanced joint Arab action.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at the end of his visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. The cable says: While leaving my second home, it pleases me to send you my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the hospitality and warm reception accorded to me and my

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delegation, and also for the honest fraternal and cordial sentiments with which we have been overwhelmed. This epitomizes the strong fraternal ties between our two fraternal states. We trust that these ties will experience further enhancement and promotion to realize the aspirations of our two fraternal peoples and serve our nation's objectives of solidarity and joint Arab action. Once again, I wish you continued good health and happiness, and the fraternal Syrian people further progress and prosperity.

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Afghanistan

President Rabbani Meets Pakistani Ambassador

LD1207203695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met this afternoon in the presidential palace His Excellency Qazi Humayun, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The press office of the presidency has reported to BAKHTAR that at this meeting recent developments were discussed. The broadening of cooperation between the two countries in the interest of consolidating peace was assessed as positive.

Clerics Welcome Message From Iran's Khamene'i

LD1207134995 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., July 12, IRNA — The council of clerics of Afghan provinces in a statement issued Wednesday [12 July] in Mashhad supported the recent message of the supreme leader of Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i to the Afghan people.

The statement said that Ayatollah Khamene'i's message has undoubtedly inspired hope in the hears of the oppressed people of Afghanistan and alleviated the sufferings of Shiite community in that country.

Appreciating "the timely initiative of the Grand Ayatollah Khamene'i", the council in its statement voiced its support for the message.

The statement also said the council is duty-bound to urge the oppressed people of Afghanistan to put an end to the civil war and fratricide, especially among Shiite forces.

Foreign Elements Said Fermenting 'Conspiracy'

LD1407100295 Tehran IRNA in English 0932 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, July 14, IRNA — Head of the Political Committee of the Islamic Movement Party of Afghanistan Mohammad Hadi Hadi Thursday [13 July] said that a new conspiracy is being fermented by foreign elements against Islam and Muslims by raising the issue of Zahir Shah once again.

The Islamic Movement Party of Afghanistan is headed by Ayatollah Sheikh Asif Mohseni, a staunch ally of the government.

The visit to Pakistan by Abdolvali, the son-in-law of the ousted Afghan king Zahir Shah, is part of this conspiracy aimed at bringing about corruption, insurgence and mischief to the country, he said.

Hadi further added that people of Afghanistan, specially the residents of Kabul, have experienced bitter hardships and witnessed unbearable tragedies in the city during the past three years which were all aimed at preventng establishment of an Islamic governemnt in Afghanistan.

The aliens, having reached a dead end, were now hatching a new plot by resorting to a weak figure such as Zahir Shah in order to materialize their vicious objectives.

The head of the committee pointed out that it was Zahir Shah who did not even show mercy to his own clan, the Pashtuns, whom he betrayed and even deprived of education. Zahir Shah proved in the past to be incapable of resolving the problems of Afghanistan, Hadi said and earnestly called on all jihad groups to unite and coordinate their plans to determine Afghanistan's fate and put an end to foreign dependence.

He termed political situation in Afghanistan as improving and said peace is gradually being restored in most parts of the country.

Hadi also referred to the situation in Bamiyan Province, saying that the objective of the party was to bring peace there. However, the Nasr faction of Islamic Unity Party, headed by Karim Khalili, opted for war in the region which caused destruction and homelessness.

India

Minister Views Kashmir Development, Elections

BK1307154495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The union industries minister, Mr. K. Karunakaran, has said that the center will provide all possible assistance and opportunities for the growth of industries in Jammu and Kashmir. He was laying the foundation stone of a textile unit near Jammu yesterday. The unit, estimated to cost 27 crore rupees, will provide employment to over 500 people when completed.

Later, addressing a rally of workers at Udhampur, Mr. Karunakaran said that the government is committed to holding early elections in Jammu and Kashmir and reinstalling a popular government in the state. He said the center is keen to accelerate the pace of development in the state and underlined the need for restoration of peace.

Referring to the security situation in the state, Mr. Karunakaran said evil designs of disruptive forces would be frustrated with a firm hand. Later, talking

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to our correspondent, Bhadran Nair, the minister said that the state administration has been asked to prepare a detailed program for employment generation in the state. Mr. Karunakaran is on a two-day tour of the state to explore the possibility of reviving industrial activity in Jammu and Kashmir.

Official: Elections To Be Held Jan 96

BK1407092995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. K.V. Krishna Rao, has said that the state administration is preparing for elections which will be held before the expiry of the present spell of president's rule in January next year. Talking to a group of newsmen from New Delhi at Srinagar, he said the situation is improving and the people are longing for peace and normalcy to return.

Meanwhile, the president of the National Conference and former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, has called upon all concerned to work together for bringing peace in the state. He was speaking at an all-party meeting in Srinagar yesterday.

Commentary Welcomes Kashmir Human Rights Report

BK1207125395 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Commentary by Rai Singh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In its latest 350-page report on violations of human rights in 151 countries, well-known human rights watchdog organization Amnesty International has come down heavily for the first time on the separatist terrorist groups in India, mainly in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, for their abuses and gross violations of human rights. It has castigated the terrorist groups for committing grave human rights abuses. Criticism of the armed opposition groups, Amnesty's term for terrorists in India, was much more severe this time as the human rights forum charged them of numerous abuses, including deliberate killing of civilians, hostages taking and torturing victims who include politicians and suspected informers. Most of the victims of these armed groups come from under privileged sections of the society, says the report.

What the Amnesty report failed to publicize was the fact that the terrorist groups operating in Kashmir comprise a large number of mercenaries aided and abetted by Pakistan. The depositions done by the Pakistan-inspired mercenaries in the state of Jammu and Kashmir have now become so manifest and so frequent that no one, much less Amnesty International, can afford to ignore them. It could not close its eyes on the inhumane crimes committed by the militants in the valley, though in the past it always turned its eyes blindly away from all that they were doing in the state, including killing of innocent citizens, arson, rape, loot, and extracting money from the people. The recent kidnapping of some foreign tourists by these mercenaries have demonstrated clearly the violation and abuse of human rights by the foreign terrorist groups operating in the valley at the behest of Pakistan. This explains why the Amnesty had taken note of these violations and abuses of human rights in its present annual report.

Amnesty's decision to deplore militant and separatist groups comes in the wake of persistent accusations of bias by Indian Government and media. In this respect, it can be described as a happy departure from Amnesty's pro forma reporting of violations and abuse of human rights. Equally constructive was the Amnesty's assessment of the work being done by India's National Human Rights Commission, which, it said, has pursued apparently with determination many complaints of human rights violations in various states. Amnesty said it had appealed to militant groups to stop human rights abuses. In one instance, it publicly urged them to leave all hostages held in Jammu and Kashmir. Amnesty International deplored the taking of hostages as a blatant violation of humanitarian law.

Another interesting aspect of Amnesty report released in London on 5 July is that it has taken note of the gross abuse of human rights in Pakistan, more so as a consequence of a religious bias in respect of the non-Muslims. This is the [word indistinct] from the Amnesty report wherein it says in Pakistan blasphemy trials continued despite a government's promise of reforms. Pakistan's blasphemy laws carry a mandatory death penalty which means once convicted, one is done for. What is regrettable is that the Amnesty annual report has not taken due note of the violations of human rights of the muhajirs of Pakistan. Muhajirs are those Urdu-speaking people of pre-partition India who had worked for the establishment of Pakistan and then migrated to Pakistan. They are Pakistani citizens for the last 48 years. The Benazir regime in Pakistan has virtually let loose a reign of terror on the muhajirs. Indeed, the reign of terror unleashed against the muhajirs and their political party Muhajir Qaumi Movement has become so brutal that Karachi has virtually been reduced to a city under siege. The irony is that while Benazir Bhutto never tires of criticizing India for its stand on Kashmir, she proved as completely false her own jingoism by failing to either condemn or control the atrocities being committed upon her own compatriots by her own security forces.

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Kashmiri Leader Seeks Iran's Mediation in Region

LD1407100795 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, July 14, IRNA — The vice-president of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Javed Mir, has said that given the respect Iran commands from the people of Kashmir, this country should mediate between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue.

In his meeting with Iranian Charge d'Affaires Saghafi Ameri in New Delhi Friday [14 July], Javed Mir said that the people of Kashmir were highly impressed by President Rafsanjani having expressed during his recent India visit his country's desire to help the resolution of Kashmir issue.

Saghafi Ameri said Islamic Republic of Iran had always stood for an early and peaceful solution to the issue as per the wishes of Kashmiris.

Reiterating Iran's willingness to mediate between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir dispute, Saghafi said that Iran would do whatever could help bring peace and normalcy in the region.

Javed Mir had a meeting with Pakistan's high commissioner to India, Riaz Khokhar, in New Delhi on Thursday and is scheduled to meet with American and Chinese ambassadors here, very soon.

Report Addresses Official's Visit to Israel

BK0907115195 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 4 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by Pravin Sawhney]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Jul 3: Three years after diplomatic relations were established between India and Israel, the stage is finally set for formal defence cooperation between the two countries.

Defense Secretary K.A. Nambiar will leave on his maiden weeklong visit to Israel on Tuesday [4 July] to tie up a multi-weapon and technology transfer agreement. Unlike defense cooperation with other countries, relations between India and Israel will be restricted to purchase of select equipment with technology transfer. Strategic interaction and cooperation between the two militaries is ruled out.

On top of the list is procurement of Hunter and Seeker Remotely Piloted Vehicles [RPV's] manufactured by Israel Aircraft Industries. While RPV's are required by all three services, urgency is being given to land systems, especially for surface-to-surface Prithvi missiles. Meant for real-time surveillance inside enemy territory, RPV's are necessary to optimise utilisation of Prithvi missiles. The two RPV's differ in range and can be used together in a tactical battle area and up to operational depth.

The talks will also include upgradation of indigenous T-72 tanks and identification of avionics and electronic warfare equipment to update MiG-21BIS aircraft to be done by the India-Russian nodal agency, HAL-MAPO. Another area will be procurement of more cluster bombs for the Air Force.

A high-power technical team of the Army, which evaluated Hunter and Seeker RPV's in Israel in August 1994, is satisfied with them. Mr. Nambiar is expected to work out arrangements for confirmatory trials of Hunter and Seekers in the country and modalities of technology transfer and building expertise to indigenously manufacture them. The initial requirement of both RPV's is 16 with two control stations to monitor them.

The indigenous Falcon RPV made by the Defence Research and Development Organisation is not technically acceptable to the Army. It has been rechristened Nishant, and Israel assistance will be sought to get it going.

ELBIT company of Israel has emerged the favourite after the recent trials in Pokharan for the upgradation of indigenous T-72 tanks.

Daily Welcomes Strenghtening Ties With Russia

BK1207060295 Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Jul 95 p 12

[Editorial: "India and Russia"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] AFTER A PERIOD of uncertainty, there are indications of a further strengthening of the close relations which New Delhi and Moscow have built for over four decades. The new order in Russia emerging after the collapse of communism should also hopefully ensure greater transparency to whatever agreements are negotiated between the two countries.

The agreement in principle for the utilisation of debt repayment funds for investment in joint venture projects in the two countries and the proposed collaboration for the development of oilfields in Siberia by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation discussed between the visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Yuri Yarov and the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, as well as Russia's assurance that no arms will be sold to Pakistan if such sales would harm India's security interests provide the framework for giving a meaningful content to Indo-Russian cooperation in the post-Cold War era. It is, however, important that the Rs. 400 crore allocation for five projects — two in Russia and three in India — is well-utilised for giving the maximum benefit to the two countries. The major consideration while

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implementing these joint venture projects is that raw material and other inputs obtainable from either country and the end products are valued correctly at international prices. The arbitrariness in their valuation which was a major irritant in the earlier Indo-Soviet ventures should be wholly kept out. The expertise as well as the resources available with the Indian petrochemical industry should be fully utilised for the implementation of the two projects for the production of 5,000 tonnes of titanium dioxide, the building of the shockproof polypropylene plant as well as the making of chemical substitutes for the ozone-depleting substances. Among the other unsatisfactory aspects of the earlier Indo-Soviet ventures was the deputation of Soviet personnel in numbers far higher than were warranted and this must be avoided.

If the proposed exploration for hydrocarbons in Siberia materialises, the ONGC should squarely meet the challenge. The Soviet-Union had initiated industrial development of Siberia, the Urals and Central Asia way back in the and some infrastructure is already in place in these regions. Lenin had plans to dam the fresh water rivers in Siberia and divert them from the South and to prevent their running into the Arctic ocean and for the generation of hydroelectric power. Even during the Cold War, the Soviet Union had a plan for the building of barrier across the Bering Strait for warming the Arctic Ocean. There were also ambitious plans for the installing of atomic pumps for speeding the flow of fresh water from the Siberian rivers not only for benefiting the Russian coastline but that of Alaska as well. None of these projects, however, materialised. The oil exploration which the Soviet Union had already carried out in Siberia had led to the delineation of large fields though the production materialising from the same is small. Siberia, therefore, should hold out exciting prospects to the ONGC.

Russia's assurances that it will not sell arms to Pakistan if such sales endanger India's security impart a highly welcome continuity to the identity of interests and perceptions shared by the two countries for over four decades.

If the Clinton administration's tilt towards Pakistan has returned the U.S. to the Nixon-Kissinger era as far as India is concerned, it should be of some comfort to New Delhi that Moscow's present perceptions of the security environment in the Indian subcontinent are closer to those of Khrushchev's Kremlin.

Iran

U.S. Fleet Commander's Comments on Gulf Viewed

LD1307134295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 13 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The commander of the 5th U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf regarded monitoring and scrutinising Iran's naval operations as the most important goal of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf. Vice Admiral John Redd, the commander of the 5th U.S. Fleet in the Persian Gulf, in relation to the causes of setting up that fleet, said: Formation of the 5th Fleet is an organizational step, in the context of the renewed concentration of the U.S. forces program in the world, in the aftermath of the Cold War. He further said the volume of the American troops in the region will remain at the same scale in the end of the Persian Gulf War.

Presence in the Persian Gulf of the U.S. military fleet is debatable in terms of the policy of dual containment. The U.S. policy makers in their dual containment strategy have in their minds (?such as to) control the two countries of Iran and Iraq. The past show of the U.S. policy on the Persian Gulf is indicative of this undesirable fact — that it only cares for its own interests in the region even if securing these interests entail war and bloodshed among the regional states. As in the Iran-Iraq war and occupation of Kuwait by Iraqi military forces, which was carried out in the opinion of (?authorities) with the tacit confirmation of the United States, this is quite obvious.

Undoubtedly, by raising the issue of Iran's supposed dangers for the countries in the Persian Gulf, America pursues two goals, one of which is to legitimize and justify its unlawful presence in the region and the second goal is to evoke pessimism of the neighboring states towards the Islamic Republic of Iran so as to manage in this way to persuade the other countries in the region to purchase larger amounts of U.S.-made arms and conclude military agreements with that country. The United States, which in fact sees the Persian Gulf security to lie in the security of oil exports through this waterway, more than being concerned over the security of its affiliated governments in the Persian Gulf, is worried about how to preserve the security for the export of petroleum from this strategic region. Washington through plundering the oil resources of the Arab states of the Persian Gulf region, sells its outmoded, redundant arms to this region; and by consolidating its military build-up in the Persian Gulf, it is attempting to sow discord among the regional states to justify and prolong its presence in the region. The point that causes worry

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for the White House is the development and deepening of Iran's relations with the Arab states of the Persian Gulf, which is on the bloom [as heard] and betterment day after day.

U.S., Israel Said Subverting Ties With Turkey

LD1407084695 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, July 14, IRNA — A Turkish weekly in an analysis on the performance of the Israeli and U.S. intelligence agencies, Mosad and CIA, in Turkey wrote that those agencies have recently created tension in Tehran-Ankara relations.

The Istanbul-based 'AKSIYON' [name as received], quoting the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Turkey, Mohammad Reza Baqeri, noted that simultaneously with the improvement of relations between Turkey and Iran, anti-Iran insinuations in Turkish had been escalated.

The weekly went on to say that an example of some of the baseless claims by the media has been that Kurdish Worker's Party (PKK) has some camps in the Iranian territory.

AKSIYON pointed out that had senior officials of the two countries not shown patience and prudence, relations between two countries would have been deteriorated and the two countries would have gone into war due to the instigations by the media.

Alleging that Iran supported those groups which posed a serious threat to territorial integrity of the Zionist entity, AKSIYON referred to the speech made by Bill Clinton at the Jewish congress in New York where he declared economic sanctions against Iran.

Stressing that the U.S. never made a mention of the developing crisis between Iran and Turkey, AKSIYON underlined that war between Iran and Turkey would have advantages for the United States rather than being to its disadvantage.

The weekly then shifted to the subject of American allies in the Middle East and said after Israel, Egypt and Turkey stand as major allies of the U.S. in the region.

AKSIYON said that in 1996 Egypt will receive dlrs. 2.1 billion as foreign aid from the U.S. while Turkey's share will be dlrs. 300 million, adding that the U.S. will use the two allies against countries which are in the black list of the United States for being a threat to the Zionist entity.

The paper added that Turkey would be used both against Iran, with an Islamic government, as well as in relations between Syria and Israel.

AKSIYON concluded by saying that as long as Turkey and Egypt have their dependence on Mosad and CIA, they would be exploited against neighboring countries in order to preserve interests of the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

Editorial Views Recent Amnesty International Report

NC1407100795 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (International Weekly) in English 6 Jul 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Physician, Heal Thyself"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ever since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the United States and most European countries, more often than not, have been resorting to the human rights issue as a leverage against Iran.

In its latest report on human rights during 1994, Amnesty International has termed the human rights situation in the United States "appalling". Amnesty singled out the U.S. for its prison system, "police brutality, torture and ill-treatments," as well as the unstinting use of the death penalty.

Ironically, most U.S. officials have been posing as self- proclaimed defendants of human rights in other countries, especially in the Third World. Considering the latest Amnesty report, the U.S. had better improve its own human rights record instead of bothering about it in other countries.

Likewise, Amnesty International is not satisfied with the performance of most European countries. Amnesty's report states: "In a climate of growing intolerance, racist ill-treatment by the police and security forces went unpunished in many European countries... European governments kept disregarding international standards for refugee protection."

In France Amnesty noted a "worrying number of shootings and killings by law enforcement officers," and, in Britain, "Cruel, inhuman or degrading" treatment of illegal immigrants held for deportation.

It also reported torture and extra-judicial executions by security forces in Israel.

Most baseless accusations leveled against Iran are spread by the Zionist-controlled mass media in the United States and Europe. Unfortunately, as reported by Amnesty, the record of the U.S., Europe and Israel is not bright.

Amnesty should avoid being influenced by those countries. The U.S., the European countries and Israel ought

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to pay more attention to human rights in their own countries instead of being worried about other countries. It is pertinent here to say, "Physician heal thyself."

Inaction Against Serbian Aggression Addressed

Jannati: World Silence 'Barbarism'

LD1407102295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, representative of the esteemed leader on Bosnia-Herzegovina affairs, has spoken out with regard to the critical situation in Bosnia and the Serbs' ruthless onslaught on the defenseless Muslim inhabited cities of this Republic. He calls upon the conscientious human beings and particularly the world Muslims to respond against this crime.

Speaking at the unifying Friday prayers sermons in Tehran today, Ayatollah Jannati condemned the massacre and forced expulsion of civilians from Srebrenica, and described the silence and indifference of the international forums in the face of this crime as another example of barbarism [jaheliyat] in the 20th century.

In another part of the prayers sermons, Ayatollah Jannati praised the positive outcome of the policy to fix the foreign parity exchange rate and market control. He said: This measure by the government creates calm in society and prepares the grounds for economic stability.

While stressing that the esteemed leader is the person who determines the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system, Ayatollah Jannati added: I, by following the esteemed leader, and on behalf of the people, say: The United States should realize that our people will never contemplate reconciliation with that regime.

In the first sermon, the substitute Friday imam of Tehran said: Economizing in consumption is an important factor of economic discipline. He pointed out that the mass media can play an effective role in promoting this idea.

Protesters Condemn Western 'Silence'

LD1407132895 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA — A group of worshippers here today after the end of the Friday [14 July] prayer, gathering outside the British and Russian embassies in Tehran, protested the Western countries' silence in the face of the Bosnian carnage.

Law enforcement forces surrounded both embassies and kept the protesters away from the compounds. No clashes were reported between the protesters and the police.

The worshippers' protest has taken place here three days after the fall of the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica declared as the safe haven by the United Nations.

In their gathering outside the Russian Embassy, the protesters chanted slogans against the supports given to the aggressor Serbs by the Russian Government.

In front of the British Embassy the protesters condemned the British Government's silence and the support given to the criminal Serbs.

Editorial Comments on 'Helpless' West

LD1307113095 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA — Serbs' crimes have passed the limits of patience of all those whose conscience is clean and whose hearts still beats for the cause of humanity, said IRAN NEWS daily here Thursday [13 July].

Commenting on the recent developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the safe haven of Srebrenica in particular, the English-language daily in its editorial criticized the performance of the West and some international bodies to stop the slaughter of innocent people in Bosnia.

"If the West is so helpless that it cannot control a band of Serb criminals, then the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] should be allowed to play its due role," stressed the editorial.

Referring to the reluctance of the West to put an end to the crisis in war-torn Bosnia, the paper noted that it was a fact that the West, the main player in the Balkan affairs, lacked the political will which was the essential ingredient for the solution of the Bosnian crisis.

The paper pointed to the inefficiency of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations and the western Contact Group to help keeping the Serb guns silent and said the Islamic Contact Group, sponsored by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), had a comprehensive plan to stop Serbian crimes, "but all its suggestions were shut down by the West," complained the daily.

The seizure of Srebrenica on Tuesday by the Serbs and escalating the Bosnian crisis could put the fate of the U.N. peacekeepers in real danger, warned the paper.

It said in conclusion that the Islamic Republic's role is clear, Iran offered material aid to Bosnian Muslims and was ready to send peacekeepers there. "The West objected and, consequently, the plan for deploying Muslim peacekeepers is still on the pipeline."

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Meanwhile, another English-language daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' commented on the same subject in its editorial that if the U.N. would end the Balkans crises before marking its golden anniversary, "it will help restore some U.N. credibility."

On the eve of the celebrations for U.N. golden anniversary (October 24, 1995), the helplessness and inefficiency demonstrated by its personnel stationed in B-H reached its climax on Tuesday when the town of Srebrenica designated as a safe haven by the U.N. fell to the aggression of the Serbs, the paper deplored.

"What we would like to point out is that the U.N. should not ignore the opportunity to set right its record in Bosnia- Herzegovina," said the paper.

The paper acknowledged that the U.N. forces in that region are not as helpless as they seem to be. "By any means - which are not very limited - the U.N. should see to it that areas declared safe by it should remain safe at any cost."

The editorial mentioned measures taken by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati including his letter to U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in which he expressed his concern over the deteriorating situation in B-H as well as his request to chairman of the OIC to use all means to stop the slaughter of Muslims in Bosnia.

"Another point worth noting is the warning by Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic on Monday that Sarajevo might call on volunteers from friendly countries for defending Bosnians against fascism," it said adding that he believed what was going on in his country - ethnic cleansing - was with the full consent of the West.

It noted that in Iran there would be many such volunteers looking forward to the U.N. decision in this respect.

"Hopefully, OIC would not remain indifferent to the genocide of the unarmed Muslim civilians in the U.N.-designated safe area of Srebrenica and do the needful for uplifting the U.N. arms embargo against the Bosnians," concluded KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL.

Envoy Informs Butrus-Ghali on 'Hostages' in Israel

LD1307094795 Tehran IRNA in English 0802 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, July 13, IRNA — Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi in a letter to the U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali Wednesday [12 July] informed the U.N. chief of details of the press conference by the spokeswoman of the families of four Iranian hostages kidnapped in Lebanon on 5 July 1982.

The English translation of a report by the Tehran afternoon daily KAYHAN which carried the press conference of Ms. Maryam Mojtahed-Zadeh, wife of the then Iranian charge d'affaires in Lebanon Mohsen Mousavi, was attached to the letter.

Mousavi, Ahmad Motevaselian, Kazem Akhavan and Mohammad-Taqi Rastgar Moqadam were kidnapped 40 km north of Beirut by the Maronite militiamen.

The Iranian hostages were later transferred to Israel and since then there is no information available on their fate.

The spokeswoman stressed that according to the latest reports, the hostages are still alive.

She added that in a visit the families of the hostages paid to Lebanon to follow up the case, in their talks with senior Lebanese officials they found out that the hostages were transferred to Israel in 1987 by Samir Geagea and that they were still alive.

Geagea, commander of the Lebanese Phalanges, said four years ago that the four had been assassinated by the ex-commander of the Phalanges. However, Geagea's claims were later denied by the ex- commander who said all the hostages were at prison when he left the office.

Stressing the need for freedom of the Iranian hostages, the spokeswoman said that Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, in a meeting with her, has instructed formation of a committee to follow up the issue.

The committee, she added, comprises Lebanese prime minister, ministers of foreign affairs and justice as well as the Iranian ambassador to Beirut.

However, she said no further information is yet available on the possible outcome the committee has achieved so far.

France's Total Replaces Conoco in Oil Deal

LD1307172695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement on the expansion of the Siri oilfields, in Iranian waters, was signed today between the National Iranian Oil Company and the Total oil company of France.

According to a statement released after the signing of the agreement, the study on expansion and start-up of production of those oil fields, and also the allocation of funds for all the required expenditure, will be undertaken by Total of France. The agreement is enforceable

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from the date of signing; its implementation period is five years, and initial production will commence in less than three years.

According to the statement, the expenditure incurred by the Total oil company will be repaid through the delivery of crude oil from the oil fields. The capacity of the fields will ultimately reach about 120,000 barrels a day. About 100 cubic feet per day of natural gas will also be exported from the fields to neighboring countries.

The agreement on the expansion of the Siri oilfields that was signed today is the same as that which had been signed with the Conoco comapy of the United States, and with the same conditions. Total has replaced the American company, which was banned from entering into agreements with Iran as a result of Clinton's embargo.

Bangladesh Envoy Calls For Broader Economic Ties

LD1107145795 Tehran IRNA in English 1316 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA — The Bangladeshi ambassador to Tehran has called for expansion of economic relations and the need to remove obstacles on the way of trade exchanges between Iran and his country, TEHRAN TIMES reported Tuesday [11 July].

In an interview with the English language daily, Seyyed Moazam 'Ali said "In addition to petroleum and carpets, Iran has other tremendous potentials that can provide a basis for boosting Tehran- Dhaka economic relations".

He said his government views the Islamic Republic of Iran as an important country in the Persian Gulf and a gateway to central Asian republics.

He also called for restoring direct trade contacts and organizing more trade exhibitions.

He said Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was eager to visit the Islamic Republic in a near future.

He expressed hope that President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani will visit Dhaka. "When I submitted my credentials to him in May, I extended an invitation from Begum Khaleda Zia to him to pay a visit to Bangladesh".

Daily Views Carpet Industry, Marketing Problems

95LA0249A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 May 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Western historians have been writing about Iranian carpets since the middle of the 19th century. Although carpets were being woven in Iran thousands of years before Islam appeared, most historians have treated carpet weaving as an aspect of Islamic art and have linked its advent with the rise of Islam. Yet when Islam appeared, carpet designs and patterns were mixed with Islamic art and culture. Among the nations turning to Islam at that time, only Iran had a background in carpet weaving and in the weaving technologies and arts.

After the writings of the historians were published, the European monarchies sent their agents to Iran to obtain elegant carpets. European and U.S. museums competed to obtain old Iranian carpets. English lords who were able to obtain a Persian carpet were proud of themselves and bragged to others about it. English merchants were very interested in establishing the Iran Carpet Corporation. The Germans did more research and study than the other Europeans to understand Iran's carpets.

In those days European and U.S. societies gradually came to understand the value and distinction of Iranian carpets and became familiar with the carpet designs and characteristics in the various cities and even in the rural and tribal areas. The names of Iran's carpet-producing cities and regions such as Kashan, Esfahan, Tabriz, Kerman, Saruq, Qashqa'i, Shahsun and others became familiar in Western societies, and the demand to import and buy Iranian carpets spread in the West. The carpets of Kerman and Khorasan found their way into the U.S. market. The French preferred the carpets of Na'in. The English were more receptive to the tribal carpets of the south and the west. The Germans mostly collected the varieties from Tabriz, Saruq, Esfahan, and elsewhere, and some German merchants made a profession of trading in Iranian carpets.

Iranian carpet sellers gradually migrated to European nations and cities such as Germany, where they operated carpet shops in the traditional way and competed with local merchants, to the point that local Western merchants gradually turned away from the selling of Iranian carpets. They began selling floor coverings and carpet mats made by machine from synthetic fibers, which had come into the market in mass production and were more profitable.

Machine-made carpets and rugs, with much propaganda and with very competitive prices, gradually filled the homes in Western societies, and the export of these kinds of industrial carpets began to the nations of the Third World, including Iran. Long-time carpet merchants remember well that at that time, several years of industry critically endangered our carpet weaving. The governments of the time were forced to prohibit the

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importation of carpet-producing machinery for several years to fight the production and import of machine-made carpets. However, the daily increasing need for carpets and floor coverings and market competition not only led to the deregulation of imports of carpet-weaving machinery but also to the deregulation of machine-made carpet imports.

Unfortunately, those working in the production, marketing, and export of hand-woven Iranian carpets did not know that much about the benefits of indigenous carpets compared to the newly imported European carpets, and even they did nothing to fight against the new circumstances. In any case the carpet industry, which had its roots in the traditional needs, background, and culture of Iranian society, especially the rural and tribal areas, came out of its temporary stagnation, continued to thrive, and regained its position as the nation's second export item after oil. The new European generation, however, remained ignorant of the distinctions of our carpets, and the propaganda for industrial machine-made carpets left no room for them to become informed about Iranian carpets.

Changes in Procedures in International Trade

Under circumstances where the multinational commercial monsters control international markets and the system of trade between countries has been completely altered; under circumstances when each country has a specific export share in other countries and when trade has been made simpler and freer by preferred tariffs agreed to unilaterally among countries individually and in groups; under circumstances where some countries impose commercial and economic sanctions against other countries and who legitimize what they do by obtaining UN agreement; under circumstances when the trade and export affairs of each nation are directly related to the expertise of that nation's commercial officials and to the establishment of government production and export regulations and supports for those working in the commercial sector, unfortunately our commercial and export affairs, especially in the area of carpets, continue to be conducted using methods that were abolished years ago and which to a great extent resemble the traditional peddling of the distant past.

Every Iranian carpet seller whose child is a student or for some reason a resident of this or that European country goes to a great deal of trouble and expense to rent or buy a store and send carpets—which he sometimes obtains on consignment from his friends—to be stored there to await a customer. Some of them, wishing to operate in a better way and again at great expense, attend one or several trade expositions. If they are successful, they merely make expenses, but their annual sales do not at all recover their investment and expenses.

Sooner or later they are forced, with more debt and financial commitments every day, to get out of the carpet business or they prepare the way for another newcomer to make the same mistake. Though there may also be exceptions to be found here and a merchant may be successful because of relationships with local agents or by virtue of engaging in other commercial activities along with the carpet business, this is indeed the exception, and the commercial success of this group of merchants is not merely based on the sale of carpets.

It should now be proven to everyone that trade and investment on a small scale in today's world is not only not economical, but sooner or later the investments made will be lost, and valuable artistic merchandise such as carpets, which are the product of the labor and artistic skill and the cultural heritage of Iranian society's most noble classes, will be converted to unwanted goods and will be stored up in European warehouses, their owners not even able to pay the warehouse fees, insurance, and other ancillary costs. Carpet inventories are usually confiscated by foreign owners of warehouses, debtors, or bankers. In these circumstances, the high statistics on carpet exports do not tell the true story, because in reality no foreign exchange revenue of any kind comes into the country.

What Must Be Done

The only way to deal with the current situation is for us to act like the world's merchant monsters. A preliminary practical step would be to create a large company to market Iranian carpets. Companies and organizations such as the Iran Carpet Corporation, the Iran Handicraft Industries Organization, the Foundation for the Oppressed and Wounded War Veterans, the carpet producing and marketing cooperatives, the Union of Carpet Exporters, and other entities and banks should act as the founding council of a public corporation to subscribe and register a company.

For example this founding council could keep just 20 percent of the shares, in the amount of 20 billion rials [R], for itself, and give the other R80 billion in the first phase to the sellers and producers of carpets. In the second phase it could give shares to the public.

After the establishment of such a company, measures must be taken immediately to obtain appropriate sites and warehouses, preferably the existing warehouses in the Handicraft Industries Organization and the Carpet Corporation, to organize active commercial management with a command of commercial affairs, and to

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undertake to buy and store the existing carpets which are on the market or are in production.

There should even be a policy of using foreign investment in world markets to buy and store carpets now on the market or remaining in the hands of merchants. Then this company must enlist the aid of the big multinational German, Japanese, or U.S. companies to take part in propaganda activities to familiarize consumers with the benefits of Iranian carpets, and it must take over the international market using television documentaries and other media.

If this happens, after a short time an unexpected prosperity will be created in the production and marketing of carpets. By writing appropriate contracts to make use of the sales resources and international communications of large companies, there will no longer be anything called stagnation in the carpet industry. Foreign companies will only deal with us and cooperate with us if we have a significant volume of goods. Fortunately, this volume of goods and assets exists in the country on a scattered basis. What is needed is to put it all together, and that does not appear to be difficult. It will be enough to transfer the amount of capital we would allocate for example to invest in the assembly of foreign automobiles, or the amount of money we spend to develop oil fields, into the commercial development of carpets, on which more than one-fourth of our nation's population makes its living.

Distinctions of Iranian Carpets

Today's generation in the world and even in Iran views carpets as simply something to spread on the floor, and no one goes to the trouble of doing study and research into carpets. The material, cultural, and artistic value of carpets must be conveyed to the public through the use of mass media, films, color images, and other things.

Let us remember that on the one hand a carpet is a suitable floor covering and a kind of savings and material investment, and on the other hand it is the manifestation of a nation's cultural life and artistic skill. The consumer must be made to understand that Iranian carpets, in view of their long life and the distinctions that have been mentioned, are much cheaper than industrial and chemical rugs, which last only a short time.

Even machine-made carpets that appear in part to have been made from natural wool cannot compete with hand-woven carpets. There is a reason why at the EURTEFA [not further identified] Expo in Germany the European carpet merchants refer in advertising to their carpets as Indian Kashan, Nepalese Tabriz, Chinese Ardekan, Pakistani Kermani, Marakkesh Saruq, and other things, and even name the machine-made carpets they sell after famous Iranian towns.

The time has come for us to put resources, communications, technical, and commercial management and ultimately foreign investment into the commercial service of Iranian carpets and bring about a basic change and a national movement to save the carpet. Otherwise, one must fear that the Iranian carpet has reached the end of its road and the jobs and incomes of more than one-fourth of Iran's population will be threatened. Rapid action on this matter is a need and a strategic necessity. If thought is not given today to the production and marketing of the nation's carpets, tomorrow will be too late.

Pakistan

Minister Discusses Possible U.S. Visit in Sep

BK1007104095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 10 Jul 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi (PPI) - Federal Defence Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani will possibly be visiting United States in September this year at the invitation of his American counter part William Perry to attend the celebrations commemorating the 50 years of end of the World War II.

Disclosing this in an interview with PPI in Karachi Sunday [9 July], the Minister said these celebrations will be held at Honolulu (Hawaii) in the first week of September.

While in the United States, Miami will have an opportunity to discuss matters of bilateral interest with Mr Perry. The United States Defence Secretary, it may be recalled, visiting Pakistan in January this year during which he had while ranging talks with the Defence Minister.

Mirani said he would also visit Egypt in the third week of September on the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart.

About the progress being made in the American Senate and House of Representatives in connection with the issue of military equipment for which Pakistan had earlier paid, the Minister said 'we see it as coming well there are very positive moves in the United States Senate and House of Representatives'. Asked whether Pakistan would receive the military equipment including the F-16s from the United States, Mirani replied that it was still being debated in the US Congress whether Pakistan should get the military equipment minus the F-16s. He said the money for the F-6s was being asked for in full (658 million dollars) by Pakistan, options are being worked out by the US government for the return of this amount (658 million dollars), he added.

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He recalled that at one time the Pressler Law could not be touched but today because the charismatic leadership of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto which culminated in her being invited by President Clinton to the United States and immense coverage in the American Press shows how well she was received in that country.

Answering a question about the measures the government was taking to meet the threat posed to the integrity of Pakistan in view of the ongoing Indian missile programme, the Minister explained that the threat perception from India exists and "We are well aware of it. We do have measures to face such a threat in case of an eventually."

Questioned whether Pakistan was diversifying its sources for acquiring equipment to meet the requirement of its armed forces in view of the restrictions imposed on Pakistan by the United States for the supply of military equipment and spares under the Pressler Law, Mirani said", In the situation we are placed in, one cannot remain in static position. There is constant search for substitutes and other options to meet the requirements of our armed forces.

He pointed out that Pakistan had not closed the option to purchase the Mirage fighter aircraft from France for the Pakistan Air Force (PAF).

Official Talks Continue Between Government, MQM

Government Presents 21-Point Agenda

BK1307152795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On the second day of government-MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-Altaf Group talks that resumed this evening at the Parliament House in Islamabad, the government side has put forward a 21-point agenda. It includes: The MQM-Altaf Group shall publicly renounce violence and will not give calls for strikes, arson, damage to public property.

The leader of the MQM-Altaf Group will ask the workers to surrender weapons at police stations and those involved in violent acts to surrender themselves. In exchange, government will consider appropriate concessions.

The Altaf Group will give up its policy of ethnic cleansing and stop targeted killings of Punjabis, Pashtuns, Sindhis, Balochis, and those Muhajirs opposed to it.

Altaf Group will accept pluralistic, democratic system and work within it and tolerate and accommodate dissent from Haqiqis [MQM- Haqiqi Group], Jamaat-i-Islami, Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan, Pakistan People's Party, and Punjabi-Pakhtoon Ittehad.

The group will also stop targeted killings of law enforcing agencies, federal and provincial government employees and surrender the gang leaders and its members.

It will wind up its training camps in India and recall Javed Langra and others who have been stationed there.

The Altaf Group will agree that all those facing charges of heinous crimes and allegations of sniper firings will have to face proceedings in trial courts.

It will not extend political support to any person or group wanted for murder; for example, as they did in case of Aslam Sabzwari, a wanted criminal with head money of 15 lakh rupees.

The Altaf Group will dissociate from its demand for division of Sindh which is tantamount to division of Pakistan or any other scheme that seeks to alter the territories of Pakistan as defined in Article 1 of the Constitution.

The Altaf Group shall publicly denounce as a principle of policy the atrocities and gross violations of human rights committed by the Indian occupation forces in occupied Kashmir. Among others, these measures, steps, and actions shall be taken in furtherance of this objective.

It shall forthwith desist from drawing any parallel between Karachi which is part of Pakistan and occupied Jammu and Kashmir which is an internationally recognized dispute.

It shall immediately stop all its efforts at international forums and internally to shift the attention of the international community from the atrocities committed by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir.

Altaf Group shall publicly stop its policy of press censorship under threat of coercion and desist from either directly or indirectly interfering, coercing, or intimidating the press.

That the Altaf Group will abandon its policy of ethnic cleansing under which it has sought to turn homogeneous Karachi into a mono- ethnic society.

The Altaf Group shall withdraw its slogan: Jo Qaid ka ghaddar hai, woh maut ka haqdar hai [One who betrays the leader deserves death].

The MQM-Altaf Group shall not exploit discredit or dishonor of women by using them or incidents relating to them for the purpose of inflaming passions, like the

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case of [the girl] Farzana where medical experts opined that rape had not taken place.

Altaf group shall publicly withdraw its call: TV, VCR becho, Klashnikov kharido [sell your television and video cassette recorders and buy Kalashnikovs].

It shall pay a mutually agreed compensatory amount, according to Islamic principles of qisas and diyat [blood money and retribution] in a fund to be created for the welfare of the families of all those belonging to the law enforcing agencies, victims of sniper firings, and members of opposing political parties, who have been made victims of targeted killings by the terrorists belonging to Altaf Group's militant factions.

The Altaf Group shall immediately stop its malicious campaign to internationally defame and malign Pakistan, national institutions, and its elected government; for example, distortion of prime minister's speech at Kasur.

It will not call Muhajirs opposing them as traitors.

The Altaf Group will welcome the Karachi package [earlier announced by the prime minister].

Workers of Altaf Group will close their torture chambers, stop receiving bhatta [gift money] from shopkeepers, and give up extortion of money from businessmen.

MQM: No Plan To Divide Sindh

BK1407031195 Islamabad THE NATION in English 14 Jul 95 pp 1, 15

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rawalpindi (PPI) — MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] Chief Altaf Hussain has no plan to disintegrate Pakistan or divide the province of Sindh.

This was stated by the head of the MQM negotiating team, Ajmal Dehlvi, while addressing at a 'Meet the Press programme' here at Rawalpindi Press Club. The other membrs of the MQM team including Sheikh Liaquat, Shoaib Bukhari, Qazi Khalid and Tariq Javed were also present on the occasion.

He said the Muhajirs are loyal to Pakistan adding that two million Muhajirs had sacrificed their precious lives for the creation of Pakistan.

Asked why he had threatened that a separate province may be demanded if the government MQM talks fail, he said in fact he had warned against the political and economic exploitation of the Muhajir community. He said Islam and the Constitution of the country do not allow the exploitation of any community.

He said the Muhajirs would love to remain with Pakistan if atrocities being committed against them be taken to a point of return. Dehlvi said the Muhajirs would be on the forefronts to defend the sovereignty and integrity of the country, if God forbid Pakistan faces some hard time. He said Muhajirs constitute 50 per cent of the Sindh population adding that over to million Muhajirs are still stranded in Bangladesh and are being punished merely for extending support to Pakistan army in the defence of Pakistan.

He rejected the allegation of terrorism being levelled against the MQM saying that MQM is an unarmed organisation which has no militant wing.

Asked as to who is attacking and killing law enforcement agencies' personnel in Karachi, he said "This is being done to malign the MQM".

The chief of the MQM negotiating team said he is at a loss to understand as to where the killers of the Muhajirs have gone as no murderer of 10,000 Muhajirs killed during the last three years has been nabbed.

He said Karachi is not a jungle where the law enforcing agencies have been given a license to 'hunt' human beings. He said if the 'haqiqi terrorists' are patronised and allowed to the crush the MQM, the reaction of the masses will be quite natural.

He said the mandate given by the people to the third largest party of the country must be respected.

He said the MQM is opposed to terrorism but the made it clear that a son cannot be punished for a crime committed by his father. He said the MQM cannot be held responsible for a crime committed by some individual or a group.

To a question he said he does not believe that India is behind the Karachi crisis. "Why the accused have not been brought for trial before the courts of law, if the government claims of nabbing some Indian agents are correct", he posed a question.

Dehlvi said it has become a fashion to hurl baseless allegations on the political opponents, which he noted is deplorable.

He said the people and parties having difference of opinion on issues should in no way be dubbed as agents of 'RAW' [Research and Analysis Wing of India] or India neither they should be called as traitors. He said doing so is against the democratic norms and human rights.

He said the operation in Sindh has not yet halted despite the claims of the government. He said peace in Sindh can be ensured if the law enforcing agencies stop patronising 'haqiqi terrorists'.

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He said there is no truth in the allegations that MQM had set up torture cells in Sindh. "Why the MQM was given large mandate in 88, 90 and 93 elections, if it is a terrorist organisation", he posed question.

He said such allegations amount to terming as terrorists the electorate who voted for the MQM.

Ajmal Dehlvi said the MQM has not set any deadline for the government to conclude talks with it. He said it has never been a practice to set a deadline in a political dialogue.

He said the MQM will not be responsible for any delay in the talks as it has even offered to hold uninterrupted talks for 24 hours without any break for meals or rest.

Answering a question he said national and international pressure forced the government to hold a dialogue with the MQM for finding a solution to the Karachi crisis.

He said the MQM Chief Altaf Hussain wants to see peace returning in Karachi. He said the situation in Karachi may go out of control if the ongoing talks between the government and the MQM fail. He, however, said the government seems to be sincere and added that he is optimistic about the outcome of the talks.

Dehlvi said the MQM team will try to make all out efforts for meaningful talks which could culminate in restoration of peace in Karachi.

He said efforts should be made to obviate the failure of the talks adding that the enemies of the country may try to achieve their motives if the talks end in a fiasco.

Answering a question he said President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari's attitude towards MQM has been impartial adding that the President and Speaker of the National Assembly Syed Yusaf Raza Gilani can play a major role in resolving the crisis.

Meanwhile, the MQM alleged that a number of its party men and workers, arrested by the police have been kept in various jails in District Thar, but the Karachi administration is not owning this.

A list of such seven arrested persons was released after "Meet the Press" programme addressed by the MQM head of the negotiating team, Mr Ajmal Dehlvi and other members at Rawalpindi Press Club on Thursday afternoon.

The list compiled by the MQM information cell includes the names of Yusaf Ali, Resident of Baldia, Liaquat Ali of Malir, Noorul Hassan, Najmalul. Hasan and Shamsul Hassan of Organi Town, Ghias Ahmed Malir Sector and Qammaruddin Sheikh Liaquatabad.

Both Sides Agree To Reconvene 16 Jul

BK1407024795 Hong Kong AFP in English 2020 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, July 13 (AFP) — The Pakistani government and the ethnic based Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) ended their second round of talks late Thursday [13 July] and agreed to meet again next week in strife-torn Karachi, the two sides said.

The talks here, aimed at restoring peace to Karachi where around 2,000 people have died in violence over the past 18 months, were adjouned for three days and are due to resume in Pakistan's commercial hub on Sunday, a joint statement said.

The five-hour session of talks, held at the parliament building, saw a review of the MQM's 18-point list of demands, the statement said.

Officials said the government delegation, led by Law Minister Nabi Dad Khan, offically asked the MQM in writing to publicly renounce violence, stop calling for strikes, surrender its arms and hand over wanted criminals to the police.

"In exchange, the government will consider appropriate concessions," Law Minister Nabi Dad Khan said in the document.

The document, issued in response to the MQMs list of demands, also accused the MQM of running "training camps" in neighbouring India.

The accusations against the MQM, headed by the self-exiled Altaf Hussain, were a reiteration of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's charge that the party was part of a "foreign-inspired insurgency."

Islamabad blames the MQM for much of the ethnic and sectarian violence that has been rocking Karachi on a near daily basis for months.

The MQM, which represents the Karachi-based Urdu-speaking Muhajir community which migrated from India after the partition of the sub- continent in 1947, denies the government accusations.

The MQM has frequently denied it is behind terrorist attacks and its chief negotiator, Ajmal Dehlvi, speaking in nearby Rawalpindi earlier, said the government had presented no evidence to prove the party received external support.

The MQM attributes the violence to what it call repression by the para militry and police and groups supported by the government.

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The party's demands to the government include a quota for Muhajirs in federal and provincial services and respect for the political rights of the MQM.

More controversially, it is demanding withdrawal of hundreds of criminal cases against MQM legislators and leaders, the release of political detainees and compensation for families of people killed or injured in past three years.

The talks, which opened Tuesday, came as a surprise after Bhutto had repeatedly declared the government would not talk with MQM until it surrendered its arms and renounced terrorism.

But Hussain also gave up his insistence on direct talks with him, besides making a goodwill gesture by calling off the protests.

Daily Reports Further on Talks

BK1407035395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 14 Jul 95 pp 1, 15

[Report by Syed Nadeem]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Islamabad — The government and the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] Thursday focused on specifics of the latter's demands and decided to hold the third round of talks in Karachi on Sunday (July 16).

The second round continued for over five hours in the Parliament House. Most of the discussion took place on the 18-point charter of MQM's demands. Both sides concentrated on aspects related to improving the law and order and the MQM complaints vis-a-vis the arrests of their activists and alleged victimisation.

From the look of it, the ball has been set rolling as, despite taking extreme positions, both sides have got down to sort out modalities. However, much would depend on the outcome of the coming round when the two sides start negotiating demands of more serious nature.

Law Minister ND Khan was not available for comment after the meeting which ended at 11:00 pm. At the end of the meeting, the PID [Press Information Department] people distributed a hastily- written joint statement. But the MQM team, led by Ajmal Dehlvi invited journalists to his hotel room for a detailed briefing and availed the opportunity to air his viewpoint.

To a question, he said he was satisfied with the pace of talks and that was why the next round was being held. He said the MQM had chosen Karachi as the next venue because they wanted to be with their party workers and people who were in the grip of violence.

To another question, he said the government had not presented its 21 demands, earlier circulated to the press by the Press Information Department. But the government sources said the demands had been handed over and the MQM wanted to study them carefully before the talks resume on Sunday.

"The reason why they did not admit it publicly was because they want to consult Altaf Hussain about our document before commenting in public," said the sources.

However, to a question, Dehlvi said the government should be asked why they had not provided them with the copy of demands, especially when these had been distributed among the newsmen.

The government side contradicted his claim saying that the MQM had asked for some time to analyse their conditions and then come prepared. The government's demands were a sort of charge-sheet of the MQM's alleged misdeeds. Details of the document implied that the Altaf Group had been formally charged with terrorism.

There were allegations from both sides accusing each other of being not powerful enough to take a decision of commit anything. Dehlvi said it appeared that the government committee did not have the full mandate.

"It would have been good if a representative of the Sindh government was there. On a number of occasions, the government side was found wanting for answers and asked for some more time as they had to gather details from the provincial government."

The government circles maintained that there was immediate no plan for inducting a negotiator from the Sindh government. "Even if we had somebody from the province, the kind of issues that the MQM is raising, it would require thorough review," said a government source. The source said since the MQM demands had been deliberated, it was their responsibility to bring proper figures.

When asked, Dehlvi said half of their 18 demands and another six points regarding the MQM protest movement in Karachi came under discussion. These were regarding payment of compensation, provision of relief, law and order issues and complaints against victimisation by the government agencies.

The official sources said they had asked the MQM side to come up with specific information about their arrested workers and meanwhile the government would also get in touch with the Sindh administration to obtain exact figures. Dehlvi agreed that there was a

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dissent on number of arrested MQM activists and there whereabouts.

He said the MQM wanted production of their workers who were arrested urban areas and shifted to other parts of the country. He said both sides had taken up such issues which were less controversial and easy to thrash out.

The government functionaries also conceded that the MQM demands of sensitive nature would be discussed later. These sources expressed the confidence that there would be many such sittings in the coming days.

On the issue of Karachi operation, the MQM leader said there was a difference of opinion as some Minister said it was on while he others maintained that there was no such thing. "Our information says that Thursday's killings were carried out by rangers. People were killed inside their houses by the law enforcement agencies," he alleged.

He said Altaf Hussain had postponed the two-day protest as a gesture of goodwill. "But if the government thinks he has done it out of weakness, they are committing a big mistake. Such thinking could produce deadly results and then nobody would be able to guarantee peace."

He warned that the protest had not been abandoned. "It has only been postponed and it can restart any moment at the signal of Altaf". To another question, he said the government was unable to stop the killings, it had no business to remain in power. He recalled the 1990 scenario when the first government of Benazir Bhuto was dismissed on the basis of bad law and order situation.

Ajmal Dehlvi said Altaf Hussain did control the whole of Muhajir community but the prolonged violence in Karachi could lead to such militant groups whom nobody would be able to stop.

To another question, Ajmal Dehlvi also admitted that more sensitive demands like the massive tax exemptions to urban areas of Sindh and allocation of Chief Ministership on rotation basis were not mentioned in the discussion.

Dehalvi said ND Khan twice took time-out to consult Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who was in Karachi. His assertions was that he could not reach her. But the official sources said he had gone to contact the Sindh government authorities.

As usual, arrangements for proper press coverage were missing on part of the government and journalists were left to a situation of chaos. Even Ajmal Dehlvi complained of the press for the "unreasonable" conditions and criticised the treatment given to the MQM representatives and newsmen. Result was that his small room saw an invasion by newsmen and cameramen and everybody felt embarrassed.

During his press talk, Altaf Hussain's secretary, Nusrat Nadeem talked to him on telephone from London. Altaf's secretary inquired from his whether the MQM had raised the issue of party workers lodged in Adialal jail and another wave of killings in Karachi on Thursday. [passage omitted]

Radio Reports 10 Killed, 9 Injured in Karachi

BK1407091895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Karachi, 10 persons were killed and nine others injured in different parts of the city yesterday. According to a press note issued by the commissioner of Karachi last night, six persons were killed and four injured in District East, two persons were killed and two injured in District West, two persons were killed and one injured in District Central, and two persons were injured in District Malir.

Sri Lanka

Security Troops Continue Operation 'Leap Forward'

BK1307154095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The security forces are now preparing to embark on the fifth day of their operation Leap Forward to liberate the Jaffna Peninsula from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. During the last four days, the forces have freed several areas. The two-pronged attack was launched from Palali last Sunday [9 July]. Two columns of soldiers from (Malali) and (Tunavi) linked up at Arali last afternoon without encountering much resistance. They were able to move forward sooner than expected as there was little resistance from the LTTE.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe told newsmen yesterday that the advancing troops into the LTTE-held territory got a vast area of the Jaffna Peninsula under their control. However, the security forces are still six km away from the Jaffna town. Brig. Munasinghe said that the terrorists lacked the strength to fight face-to-face with the Army as a very large number of troops are engaged in the operation. No casualties were reported in yesterday's operation by the Army. The LTTE is believed to have suffered heavy casualties during the last four days of the offensive. The exact casualty figures were not known.

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The LTTE blasted a bridge on the Karaitivu-Jaffna Road leading to Karainagar. Brig. Munasinghe said this was an LTTE tactic to prevent the forces from entering the Jaffna town. He urged the people who have vacated their homes to return and resettle in areas liberated by the Army and all facilities will be provided to them.

The Ministry of Defense says that around 1800 yesterday, LTTE terrorists attempted to launch an attack in the area north of Arali. The troops successfully repulsed the attack. During the confrontation, five soldiers were killed in action and 20 others were injured. Troops advanced up to Uriyan area, south of Elephant Pass, in the Kilinochchi District. The terrorists withdrew without any resistance. One soldier was injured due to an antipersonnel mine. Terrorist casualties were not known. The troops recovered a T-56 weapon with a magazine and 20 Johnny mines.

In (Vankalville), in the Batticaloa District, the security forces recovered a T-81 and M-70 weapon with magazines as well as 60 rounds of ammunition from the house of an LTTE cadre who has deserted the organization.

AFP Reports on Downed Plane, 'Raging' Fighting

BK1407073395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0710 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, July 14 (AFP) — Heavy hand- to-hand fighting erupted in northern Sri Lanka Friday [14 July] as Tamil Tiger guerrillas shot down an attack aircraft in a bid to repulse a military drive on their Jaffna stronghold, defence officials said.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fired a surface-to-air missile, scoring a direct hit on the twin-engined Argentinian-built Puccara as it climbed out of a bombing run, the spokesman said.

"The Puccara was carrying out a steep climb after diving to bomb a target. Ground troops have seen it being hit by a missile," the spokesman said adding that the lone pilot, D. S. Perera, was killed instantly.

The wreckage fell behind army lines in a 78-square kilometre (31- square-mile) area captured from the Tamil Tigers after Operation Leap Forward was launched on Sunday inside the LTTE-controlled Jaffna peninsula.

Military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said heavy fighting was raging in at least two newly established defence positions. He added casualties on both sides could be "very heavy."

He said he was awaiting details but defence sources said the casualties could be counted in the hundreds considering the intensity of the fighting which had been going on for more than six hours.

Hundreds of LTTE gunmen led by suicide squads smashed newly established army defences at Araly and Sangillipai at dawn Friday triggering the intense fire fight, the sources said.

The attack came as the army set up bunkers just six kilometres (four miles) away from the psychologically important Jaffna town, the capital of Tamil separatism and the centre of the Tiger fiefdom.

"It is suicide for the army to remain in one place without going all the way (to Jaffna). The lull in fighting in the past two days was clearly because the Tigers were preparing for this surprise," an Asian diplomat here said.

Tigers had offered little resistance to the 10,000 strong military drive as they advanced in two columns towards Jaffna town from the Palaly military complex located at the northern tip of the embattled peninsula.

"They were very successful in securing a main supply route to all their camps in the north. But beyond that this operation makes no sense unless they are prepared to take Jaffna," a recently retired army officer said.

He said the LTTE blasted a vital 30-meter (yard) bridge just outside Jaffna two days ago to slow down an onslaught on the heavily built up town.

However, the latest issue of the LTTE's newspaper, Inside Report, received here Friday said any government invasion of Jaffna would result in "disastrous consequences" for the military.

"We wish to warn the government that the LTTE will not enter peace talks under such conditions," the Inside Report said.

The government has already categorically ruled out any fresh negotiations with the LTTE after it pulled out of talks on April 19 to resume its separatist campaign for an independent homeland called Eelam.

There had been reports of heavy civilian casualties in aerial attacks to support ground soldiers who marched through palmyra groves, rice fields and vegetable patches to avoid being hit by mines planted on main roads.

Military video footage showed Friday that Tamil farmers left their chilli crops drying in the sun and fled as Russian-built T-55 tanks rolled through their backyards over the past three days.

A Christian priest who left Jaffna on Tuesday and arrived here Thursday said most of the civilians left the

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battle zone and only a handful of elderly people remained to take advantage of the government's rehabilitation package.

Travellers also report that at least 145 people were killed and another 350 wounded in the fighting while an estimated 300,000 men, women and children had been left homeless.

Meanwhile, LTTE gunmen attacked a police post in eastern Sri Lanka Friday, killing five constables and escaping with their weapons.

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